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SOUL TO SEOUL™

FROM·SEOUL·TO
THE·EAST·COAST

VOL:01

KIM JEA EUN

SOUL TO SEOUL

1

Kim Jea Eun

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Soul to Seoul

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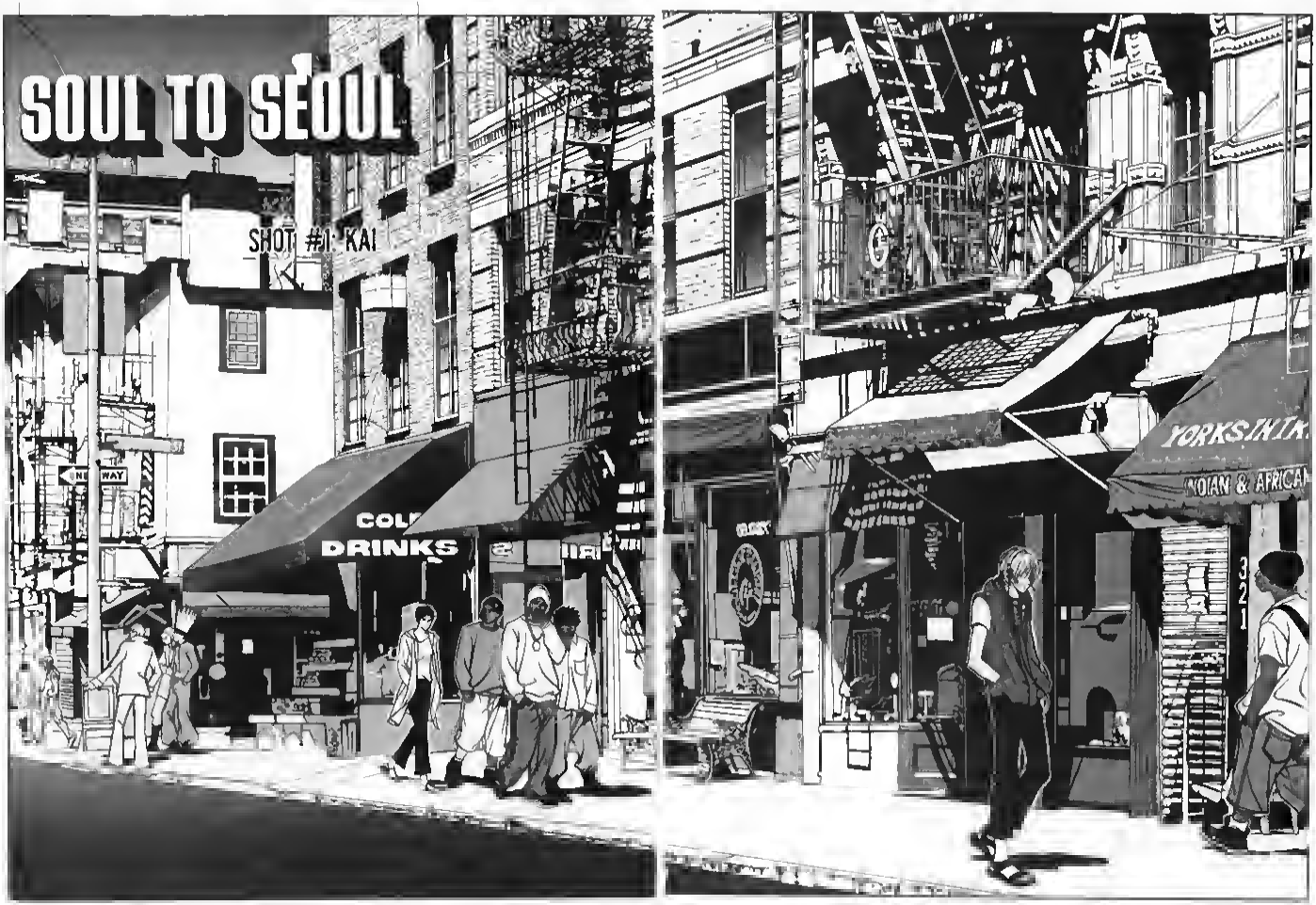
BEFORE I KNEW KAI, THE WORLD REVOLVED AROUND ME.
AFTER I MET KAI, THE WORLD REVOLVED AROUND HIM. AND NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M A SATELLITE, REVOLVING ONLY AROUND KAI.

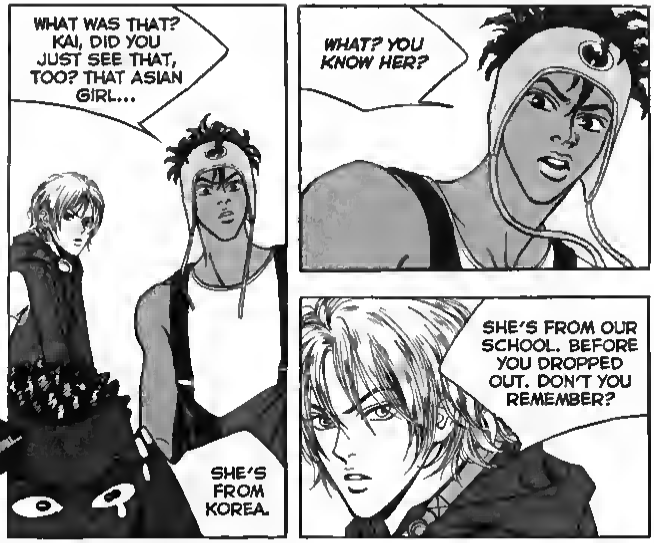

SOUL TO SEOUL
SHOT #1: KAI
DRINKS
YORKSHIRE
& AFRICAN

X-TRA-SYNDROM
UMSTEIN
DKNY
HEY, LOOK WHO IT IS! KAI!
WHAT'S UP?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HEY, IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, FINE. I'LL LEAVE.
DON'T GET PISSED. I'M JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KAI! I MISSED YOU SO MUCH. YOU KNOW I LIKE YOU, RIGHT?
UGH! LET ME GO! YOU AND I ARE FRIENDS-- THAT'S IT!

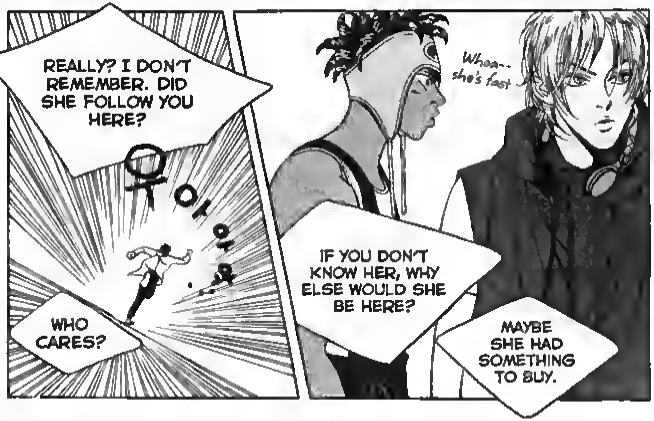
WHERE...IS THIS PLACE?
HUH?!
WHAT THE...
WHO?
WHERE THE HELL AM I?
HOW'S THE DEAL GOING?
I'VE ONLY HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE. COULD IT BE...I'M IN HARLEM?!
THE DEAL? YOU KNOW ME. I DON'T REALLY GET TOO MUCH OUT OF IT.
SO YOU WANNA DO IT WITH ME?
I WAS JUST FOLLOWING HIM OUT OF CURIOSITY, BUT I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD TAKE ME HERE.
WHAT?! ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU REALLY WANNA FALL INTO THIS, TOO? NO!
DAD TOLD ME I SHOULD NEVER COME HERE ALONE. I HEARD THAT TAXIS REFUSE TO STOP HERE, AND EVEN THE POLICE HAVE GIVEN UP ON THIS PLACE.
AND DRUG DEALS GO DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...AND PEOPLE GET KILLED OVER 50 BUCKS...
HEY!
쿵!
쿵!
쿵!

Cameo Major Gangsta Rap Star!
HEY, GIRL!
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FROM AROUND HERE. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
OR MAYBE SOMETHING?
헉

!

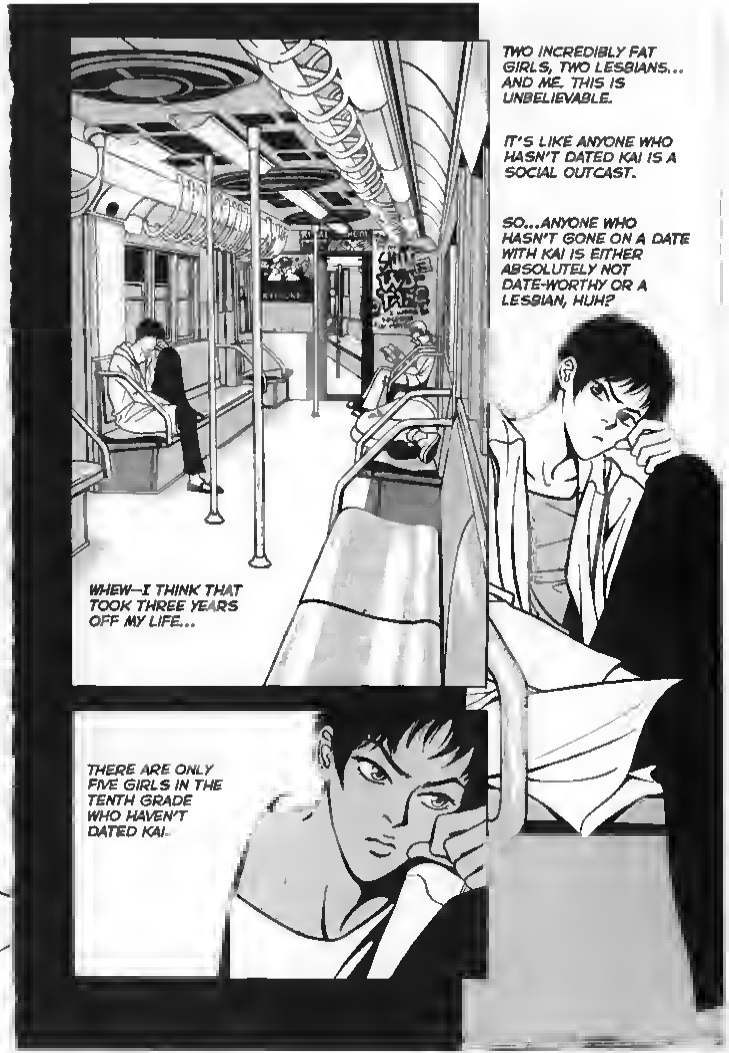

WHAT WAS THAT? KAI, DID YOU JUST SEE THAT, TOO? THAT ASIAN GIRL...
SHE'S FROM KOREA.
WHAT? YOU KNOW HER?
SHE'S FROM OUR SCHOOL. BEFORE YOU DROPPED OUT. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

WHAT THE...? YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KICK ME!! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
퍽 다다다


REALLY? I DON'T REMEMBER. DID SHE FOLLOW YOU HERE?
WHO CARES?
Whoa... she's fast
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HER, WHY ELSE WOULD SHE BE HERE?
MAYBE SHE HAD SOMETHING TO BUY.

I REALLY DON'T GET IT. HOW COME SO MANY GIRLS ARE AFTER A GUY LIKE YOU?
WELL...A LOT OF GIRLS ARE AFTER ME, BUT I'M USUALLY DONE WITH THEM AFTER THE FIRST DATE.

THEN...YOU AND THAT GIRL HAVE NOTHING GOING ON?
NOPE. WHY?
YOU SURE?
YEAH.

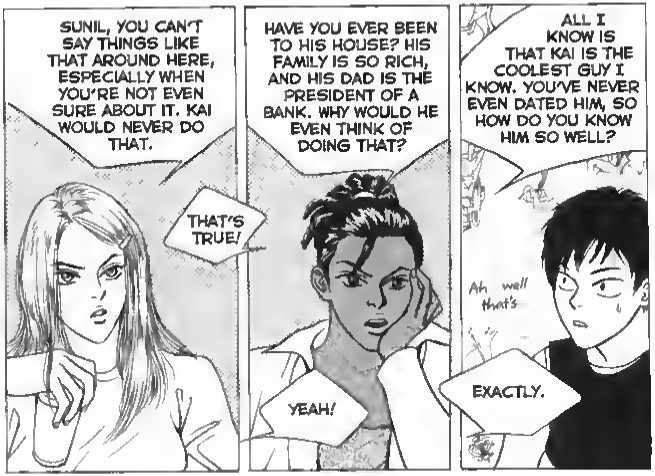

TWO INCREDIBLY FAT GIRLS, TWO LESBIANS... AND ME. THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE.
IT'S LIKE ANYONE WHO HASN'T DATED KAI IS A SOCIAL OUTCAST.
SO...ANYONE WHO HASN'T GONE ON A DATE WITH KAI IS EITHER ABSOLUTELY NOT DATE-WORTHY OR A LESBIAN, HUH?
WHEW--I THINK THAT TOOK THREE YEARS OFF MY LIFE...
THERE ARE ONLY FIVE GIRLS IN THE TENTH GRADE WHO HAVEN'T DATED KAI.

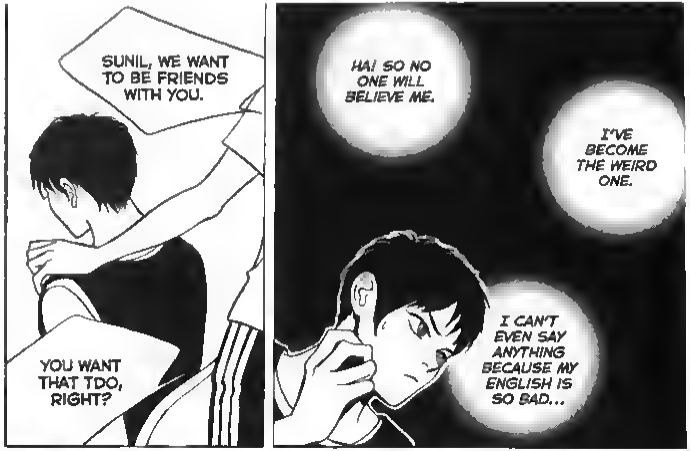
IT'S MASS PSYCHOSIS. WHAT KIND OF SPELL IS EVERYONE UNDER?
WOULD ANYONE KNOW THAT KAI HANGS OUT IN HARLEM ALL THE TIME?
I STARTED FOLLOWING HIM SO I WOULDN'T BE A SOCIAL OUTCAST ANYMORE. AND BEFORE TODAY, ALL I KNEW ABOUT HIM WAS THAT HE'S HALF WHITE, HALF KOREAN AND A TOTAL PLAYER. NOT THAT I KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT HIM NOW, BUT...
SHOOT! WHO WILL BELIEVE THAT I'VE BEEN REDUCED TO THIS?
KAI, WHEN DID YOU GET BACK? HAVE YOU EATEN?
I ATE WITH FRIENDS.
WE ALL WAITED FOR YOU. DID YOU FORGET THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO EAT TOGETHER ON WEEKENDS?
YEAH, SORRY.
I WISH YOU HAD COME HOME SOONER. THE HOUSE SEEMS SO EMPTY WITHOUT YOU. AND GELDA WAS WAITING FOR YOU ALL DAY LONG.

OH, GELDA...
MOM, THIS COOKIE TASTES GREAT!
SHIT!
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?!
YOU PROMISED THAT YOU'D COME HOME EARLY AND GO SWIMMING WITH ME!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE DONE THIS TO ME?
COME ON GELDA, YOU'RE GONNA BREAK THE DOOR. I SAID I'M SORRY.
SO WHO WERE YOU FOOLING AROUND WITH TODAY?
.....
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU ALL DAY TOMORROW.
REALLY? YOU PROMISE?
YEAH, I PROMISE. SO GO TO BED NOW.
HE ACTS LIKE I'M SOME CHARITY CASE--LIKE HE'S GIVING MONEY TO A BEGGAR!
NOW HE LIKES GOING OUT WITH OTHER WOMEN MORE THAN PLAYING WITH ME?
HE'S CHANGED. HOW COULD HE HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IS SOMEONE IN THERE? I NEED TO GO...
I DON'T KNOW!
있다옌
?
HYSTERIC
CAN YOU INTRODUCE ME TO HER?
I THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE MY MOM.
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT ABOUT KOREAN GIRLS.
WHEN I SEE A KOREAN GIRL, IT REMINDS ME OF MY MOM. COME ON, WILL YOU DO THIS FOR ME? I REALLY WANT TO GO OUT WITH A KOREAN CHICK!
I KNOW YOU'RE THE EXPERT AT THIS KIND OF STUFF.

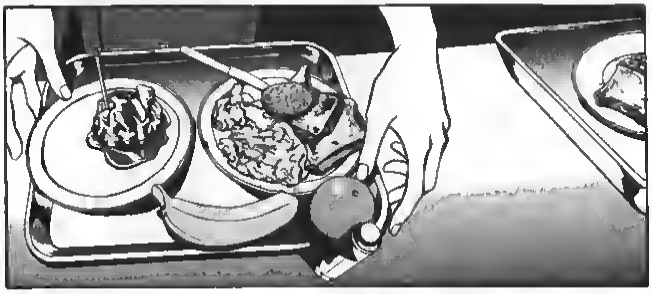
KAI INVOLVED IN DRUG DEALS? NO WAY!
WHAT? KAI?!
SHHH-- KEEP IT DOWN... I DIDN'T SAY HE'S INVOLVED, I SAID HE MIGHT BE....

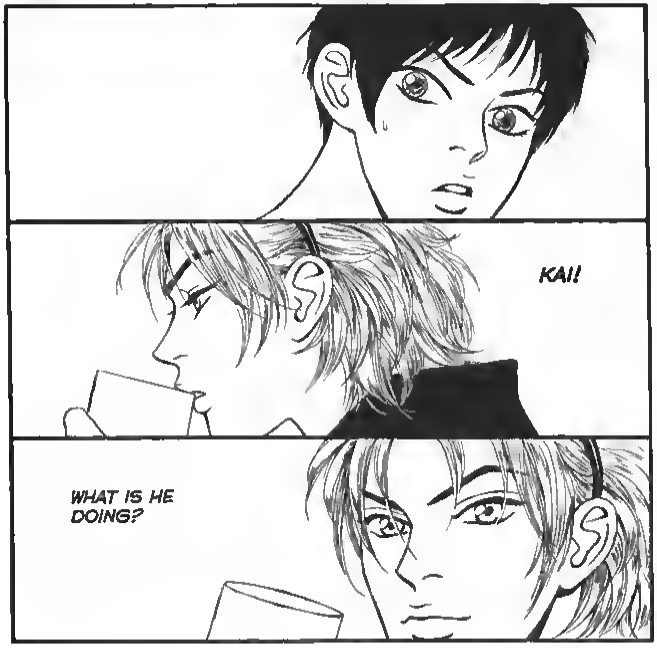

SUNIL, YOU CAN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT AROUND HERE, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE NOT EVEN SURE ABOUT IT. KAI WOULD NEVER DO THAT.
THAT'S TRUE!
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO HIS HOUSE? HIS FAMILY IS SO RICH, AND HIS DAD IS THE PRESIDENT OF A BANK. WHY WOULD HE EVEN THINK OF DOING THAT?
YEAH!
ALL I KNOW IS THAT KAI IS THE COOLEST GUY I KNOW. YOU'VE NEVER EVEN DATED HIM, SO HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM SO WELL?
Ah well that's
EXACTLY.


SUNIL, WE WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
YOU WANT THAT TOO, RIGHT?
HA! SO NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME.
I'VE BECOME THE WEIRD ONE.
I CAN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE MY ENGLISH IS SO BAD...

HI.

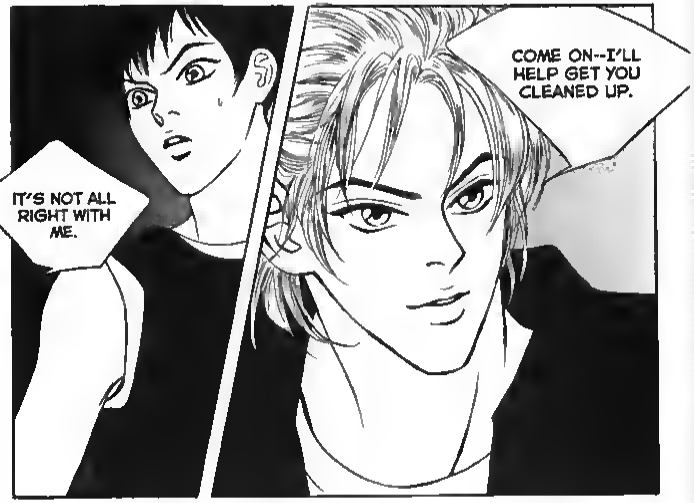
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
AGH!!

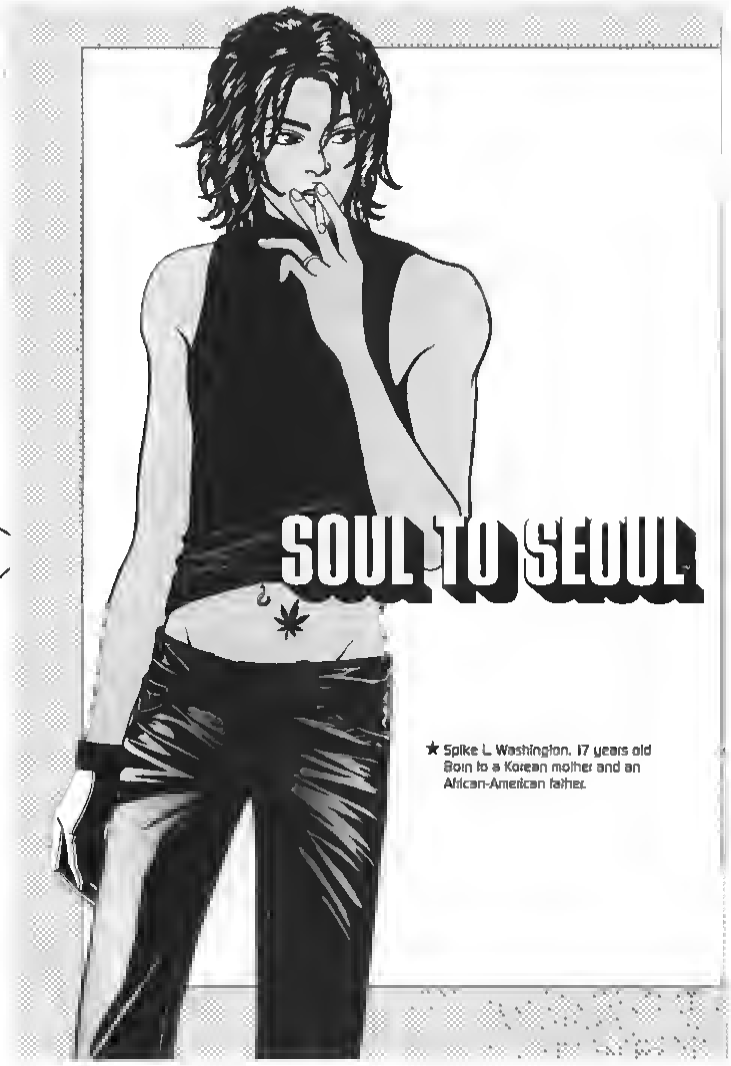



KAI!
WHAT IS HE DOING?

OOPS, I'M SORRY. I SPILLED MILK ON YOU.

I-IT'S ALL RIGHT.


IT'S NOT ALL RIGHT WITH ME.
COME ON--I'LL HELP GET YOU CLEANED UP.

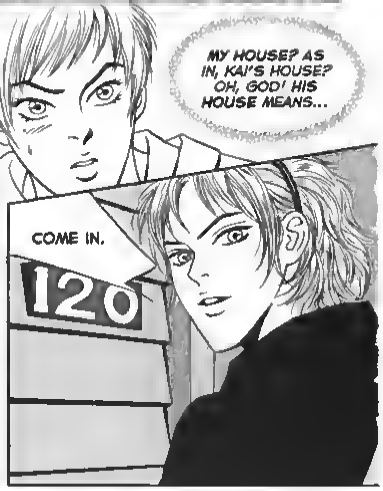

SOUL TO SEOUL
★ Spike L. Washington. 17 years old Born to a Korean mother and an African-American father.

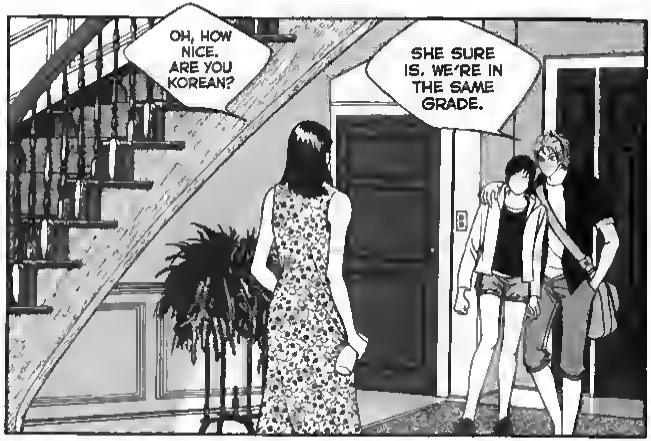
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO WASH YOUR CLOTHES.
WHAT? THE LAUNDRY ROOM IS IN THE DORM!
THAT'S NO FUN.
.....!
LET ME GO! THAT HURTS!
FLINCH
YOU SHOULDN'T WHINE.
PEOPLE MIGHT THINK I'M FORCING YOU TO COME WITH ME!
OH NO!
HE'S A TOTAL PSYCHO!
GEE! EVEN SUNIL?
SCHOOL ISN'T OVER YET. WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE SHE'S BEING DRAGGED?
I KNOW.
OO THEY THINK WE'RE ON A DATE OR SOMETHING?
OUUUCH! HIS GRIP IS TOO STRONG!
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO TO ME?

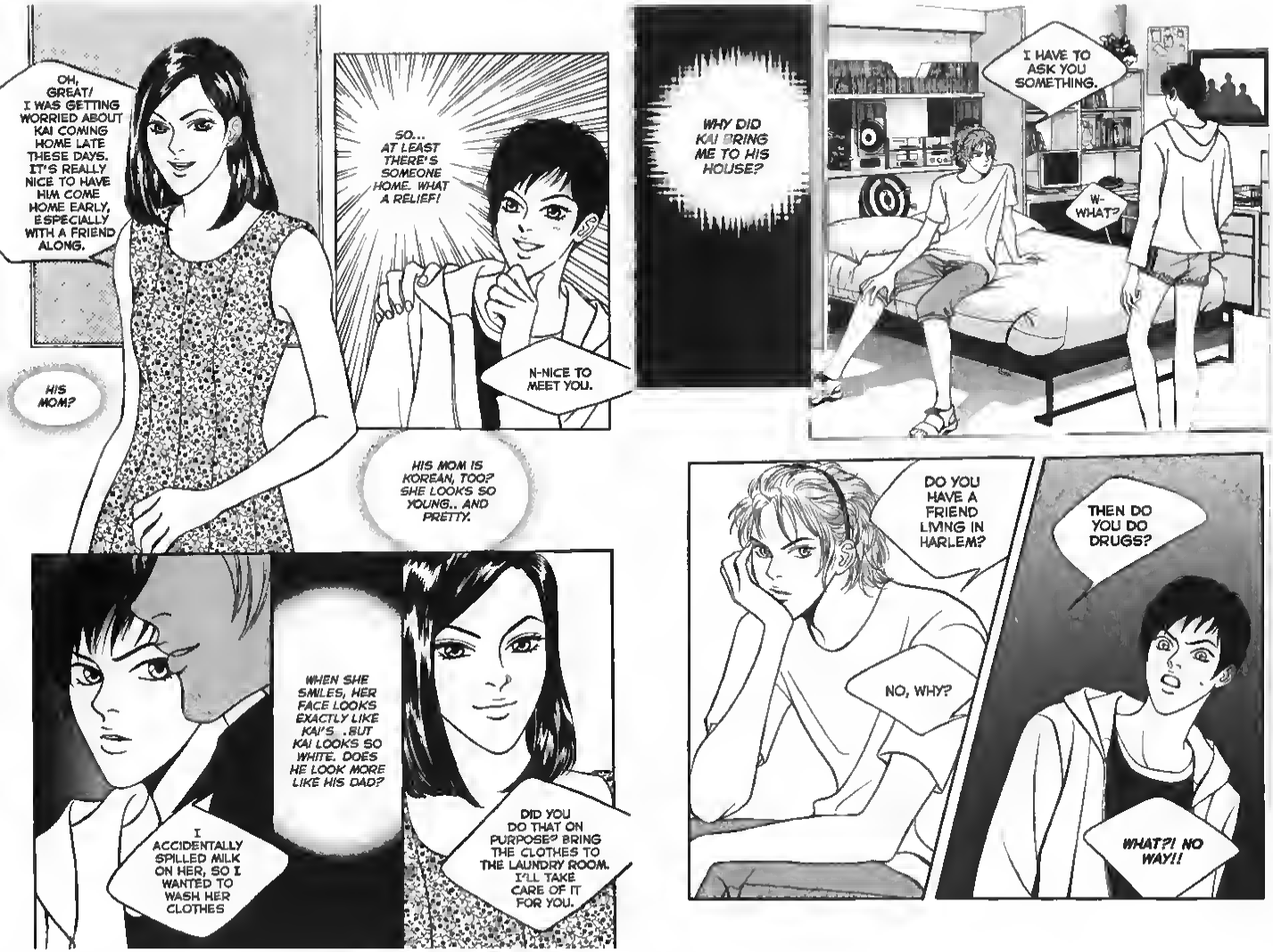
COME ON— FEEL FREE.
NO, I CAN'T! I'LL BE DOOMED FOREVER ONCE I STEP INTO THAT HOUSE!

KAI, YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
OH, MOM...
...YOU'RE HOME! I BROUGHT A FRIEND OVER.

WHERE ARE WE?
MY HOUSE.

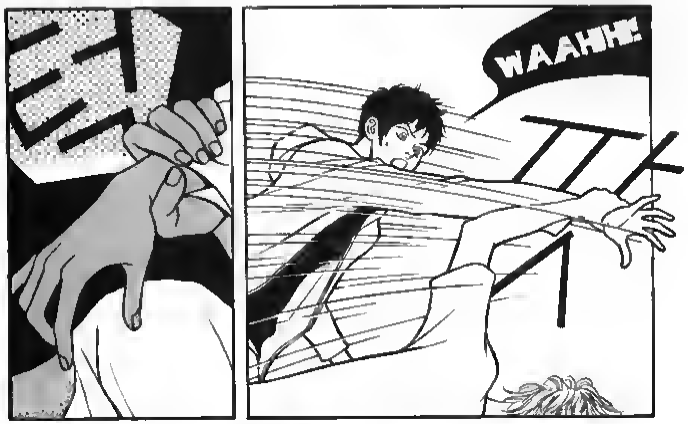

MY HOUSE? AS IN, KAI'S HOUSE? OH, GOD! HIS HOUSE MEANS...
COME IN.
120


OH, HOW NICE. ARE YOU KOREAN?
SHE SURE IS. WE'RE IN THE SAME GRADE.


OH, GREAT! I WAS GETTING WORRIED ABOUT KAI COMING HOME LATE THESE DAYS. IT'S REALLY NICE TO HAVE HIM COME HOME EARLY, ESPECIALLY WITH A FRIEND ALONG.
HIS MOM?
SO... AT LEAST THERE'S SOMEONE HOME. WHAT A RELIEF!
N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
HIS MOM IS KOREAN, TOO? SHE LOOKS SO YOUNG.. AND PRETTY.
I ACCIDENTALLY SPILLED MILK ON HER, SO I WANTED TO WASH HER CLOTHES
WHEN SHE SMILES, HER FACE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE KAI'S. .BUT KAI LOOKS SO WHITE. DOES HE LOOK MORE LIKE HIS DAD?
DID YOU DO THAT ON PURPOSE? BRING THE CLOTHES TO THE LAUNDRY ROOM. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.
WHY DID KAI BRING ME TO HIS HOUSE?
I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
W-WHAT?
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND LIVING IN HARLEM?
NO, WHY?
THEN DO YOU DO DRUGS?
WHAT?! NO WAY!!

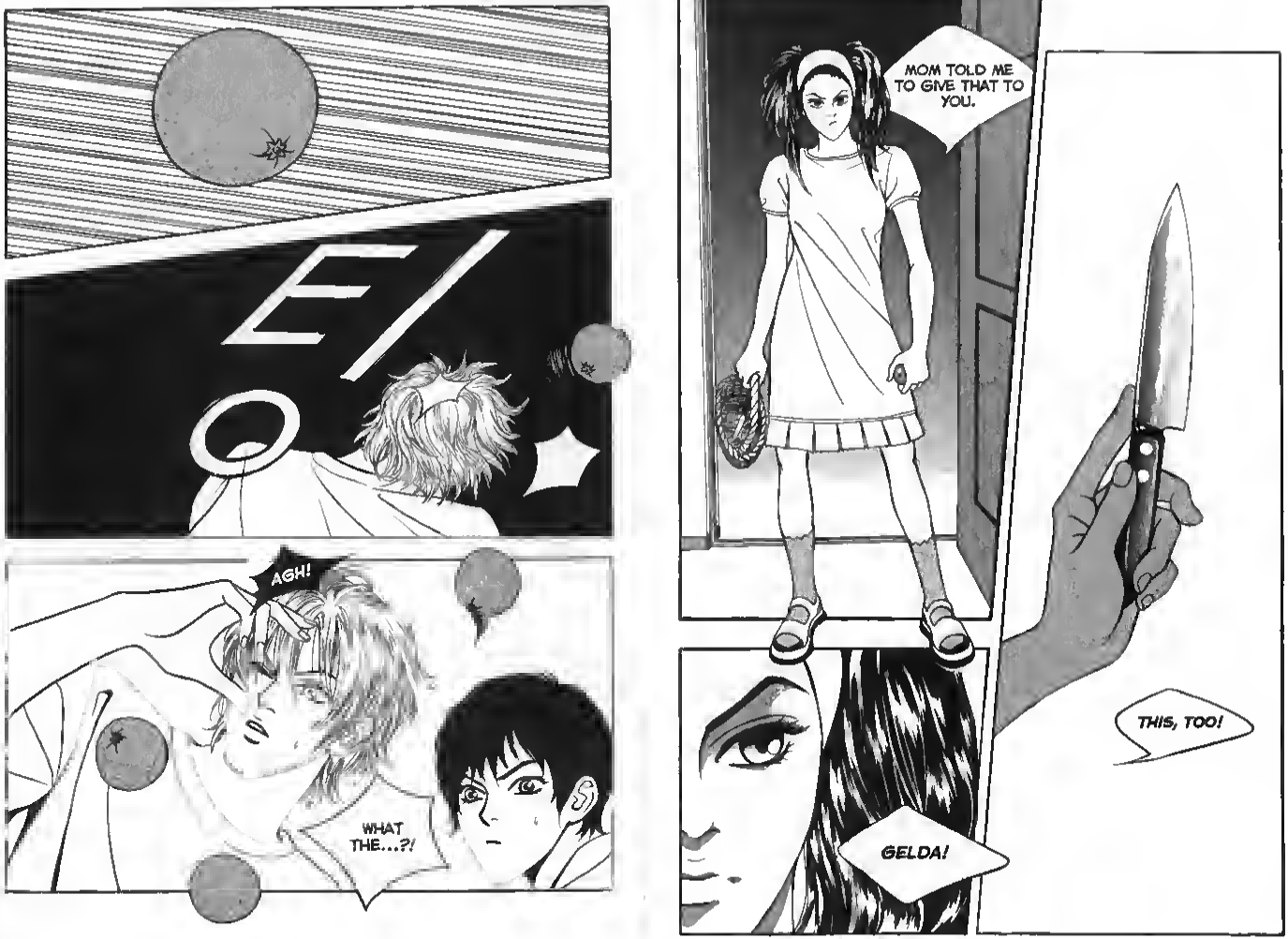
THEN WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN HARLEM THE OTHER DAY?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY WERE YOU THERE? ARE YOU DOING DRUGS?
I WENT TO SEE A FRIEND WHO LIVES THERE. WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY WHEN YOU SAW ME?
....
WHY WERE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
HE'S TOO SMART! HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THIS?
YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ME, AREN'T YOU? SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO FOR YOU?
I'M NOT INTERESTED, DUDE. JUST LET ME GO!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL LET YOU GO AS SOON AS YOUR CLOTHES ARE DRY. BUT WHAT A BUMMER THAT YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM ME...
I USUALLY KNOW WHAT GIRLS WANT. AND I DO IT FOR THEM. I GUESS THAT'S WHY GIRLS WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
I'M KOREAN, BUT I HAVE TO SAY--KOREAN GIRLS ARE SO TWO-FACED. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT.
OR...MAYBE YOU'RE A LESBIAN?

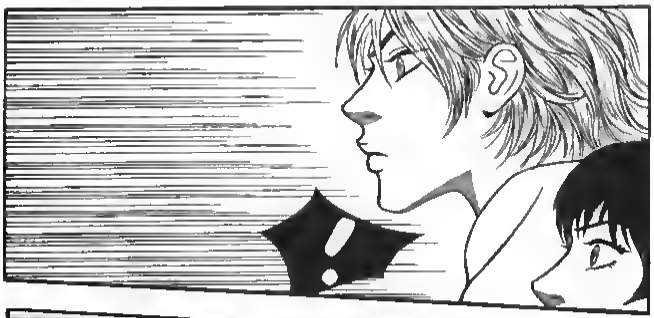
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU PERVERT!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HAVE ANY GIRL IN THE WORLD?!
H-HEY!

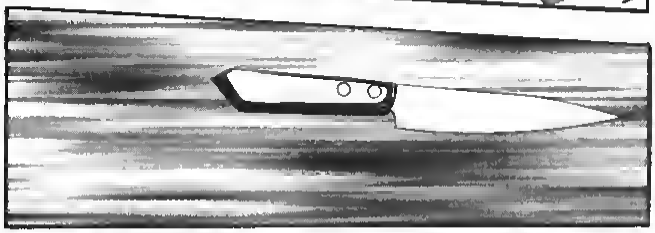

WAAHH!

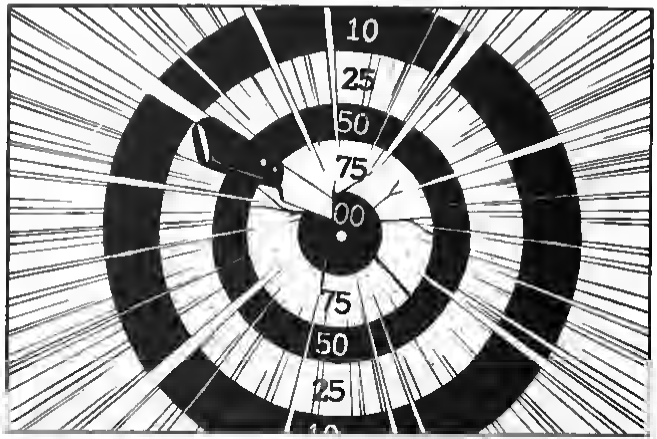
DON'T I HAVE YOU RIGHT NOW?

HE REALLY IS A PSYCHO!
YUM, HE WEARS HUGO BOSS.
THIS IS CRAZY. THINKING ABOUT HIS COLOGNE WHILE I'M IN THIS SITUATION...
THINK... YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT. YEAH, I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU TO SPIKE.
WAIT... SPIKE? WHO IS HE? A SLAVE DEALER?


EI
AGH!
WHAT THE...?!
MOM TOLD ME TO GIVE THAT TO YOU.
GELDA!
THIS, TOO!



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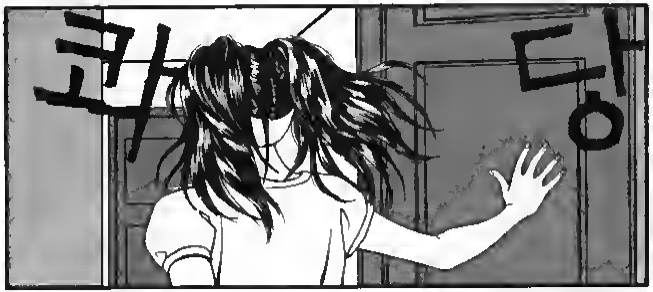
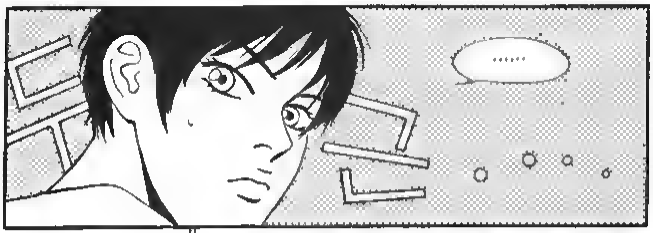
GOD, ARE YOU AN ANIMAL OR WHAT? ROLLING AROUND IN BED LIKE THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...

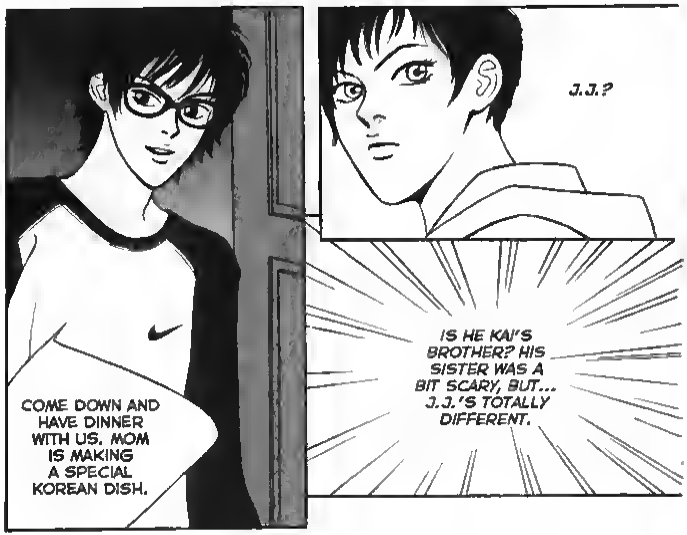




HIS SISTER IS FULL-BLOODED, AND HE'S HALF? I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT.

WHO'S THE REAL KAI?

THANKS, J.J.
I IRONED THEM, TOO.


COME DOWN AND HAVE DINNER WITH US. MOM IS MAKING A SPECIAL KOREAN DISH.
J.J.?
IS HE KAI'S BROTHER? HIS SISTER WAS A BIT SCARY, BUT... J.J.'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

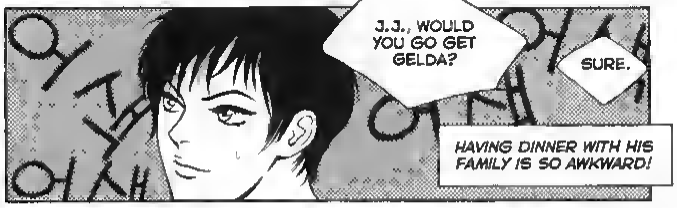
SOUL TO SEOUL

MOM, IT SMELLS GREAT!
REALLY?

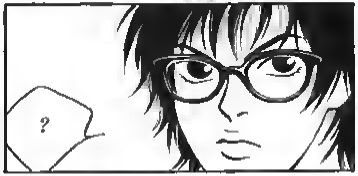
WOW, KALBI!

I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

COME AND HAVE A SEAT.
WHAT ABOUT GELDA?
I GUESS SHE'S STILL IN HER ROOM.


J.J., WOULD YOU GO GET GELDA?
SURE.
HAVING DINNER WITH HIS FAMILY IS SO AWKWARD!

GELDA?
GELDA, YOU THERE?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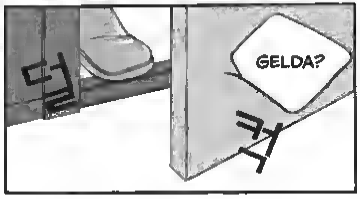
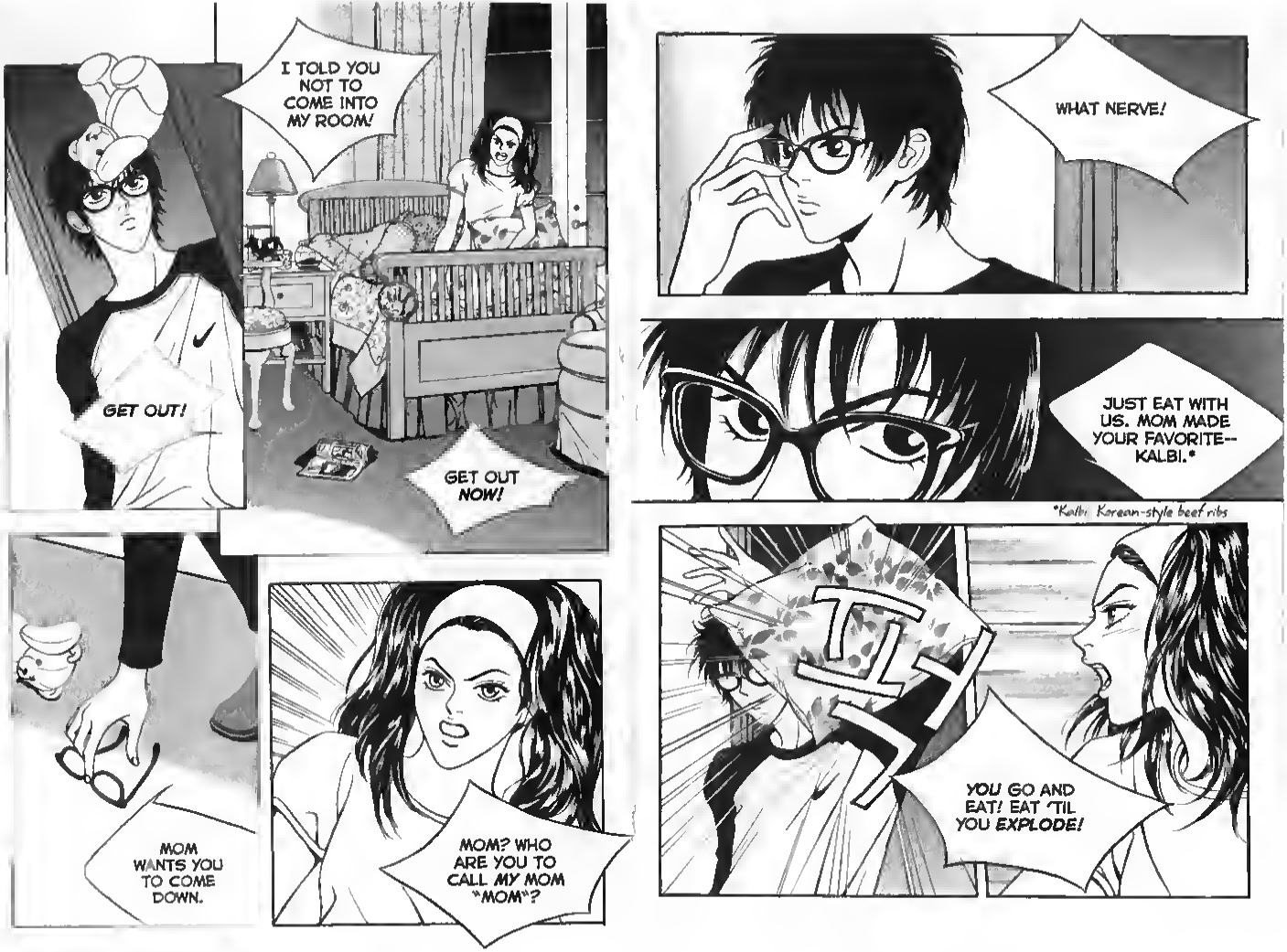
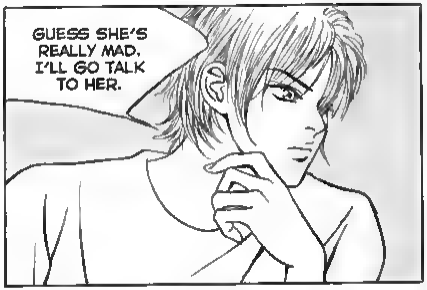
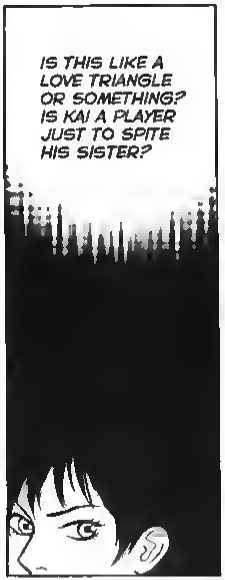
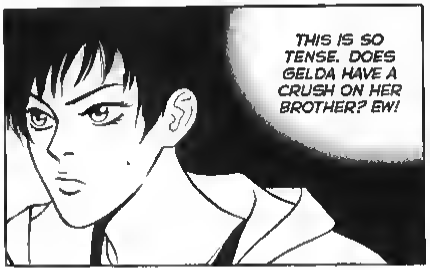
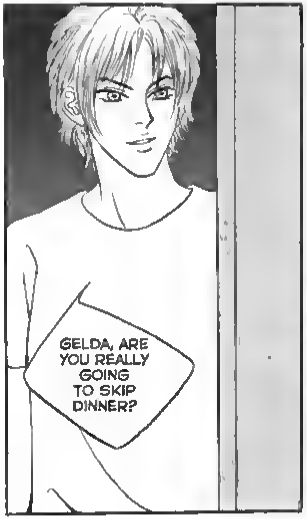

GELDA?

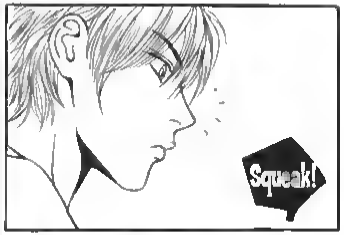

I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME INTO MY ROOM!
GET OUT!
GET OUT NOW!
MOM WANTS YOU TO COME DOWN.
MOM? WHO ARE YOU TO CALL MY MOM "MOM"?
WHAT NERVE!
JUST EAT WITH US. MOM MADE YOUR FAVORITE--KALBI.*
*Kalbi: Korean-style beef ribs
YOU GO AND EAT! EAT 'TIL YOU EXPLODE!

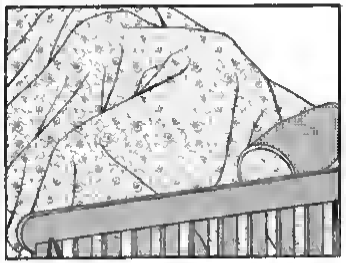


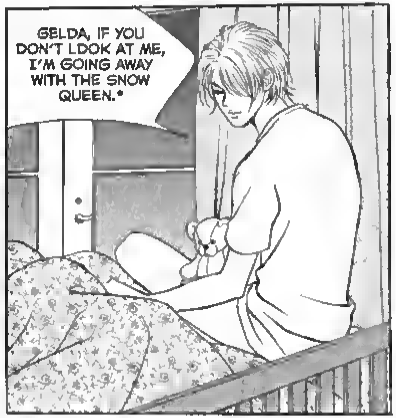




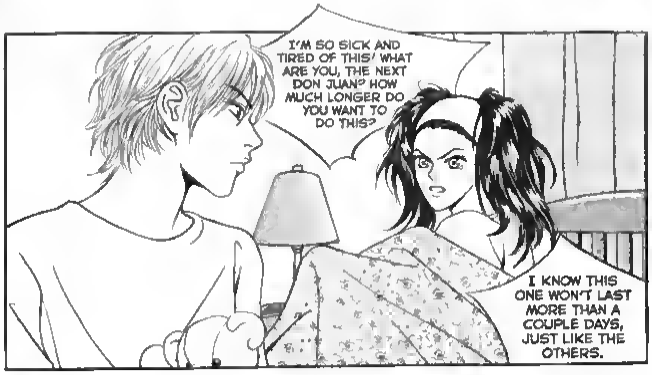








(Editor's Note: The names Kai and Gelda both come from the book Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson. In the story Kai is snatched away by the Snow Queen, and his heart becomes frozen.)


I'M SO SICK AND TIRED OF THIS! WHAT ARE YOU, THE NEXT DON JUAN? HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
I KNOW THIS ONE WON'T LAST MORE THAN A COUPLE DAYS, JUST LIKE THE OTHERS.

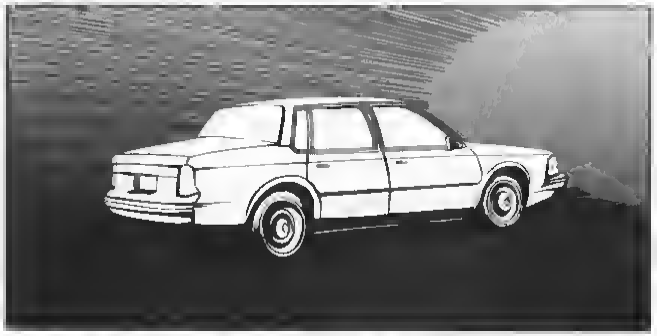
KAI, PLEASE STOP THIS. STOP BEING SUCH A FREAKING PLAYER!

OKAY, I WAS GOING TO STOP ANYWAY. I WAS GETTING TIRED OF IT.
REALLY?
YES. SO COME DOWN AND EAT, OKAY? BUT FIX YOUR HAIR FIRST!

CONGRATULATE ME, EVERYONE.

I JUST PROMISED GELDA...
I CAN'T EAT.
I WANT TO GO STEADY NOW- IF SHE'LL LET ...
...THAT I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE UP MY PLAYER WAYS.
WHAT?

OH, S-SORRY...
AGH!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
GO...STEADY? KAI...ANO ME?
THAT'S GREAT NEWS, KAI. I HOPE IT WORKS OUT.
FINE! HAVE A NICE LIFE.
GELDA!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
PUBERTY.

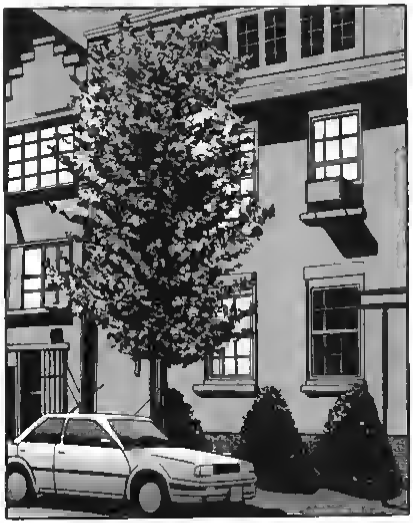


WEREN'T YOU TOO HARSH ON HER?
ON WHO?
Y' KNOW?
YEAH. IT'S BECOMING TOO MUCH--THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
I THINK SHE LIKES YOU...
IT WAS CUTE WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE. THESE DAYS...IT'S BECOMING A BIT OVERBEARING.
IS...THAT WHY YOU SAID THAT?

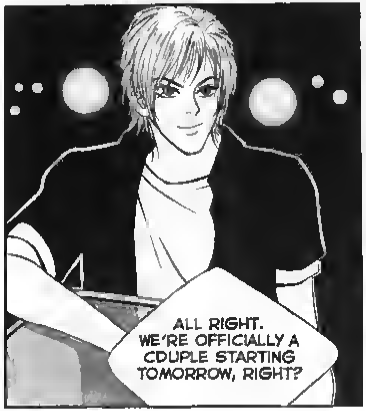
SAYING I WANTED TO GO STEADY WITH YOU? I WAS BEING TOTALLY FOR REAL. PLEASE DON'T THINK I WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND.

W 71
ONE WAY
NO
COST OF LIVING
COST OF LIVING
DONT WALK
I'M SURE GELDA WILL FIND THE PERFECT GUY SOMEDAY.

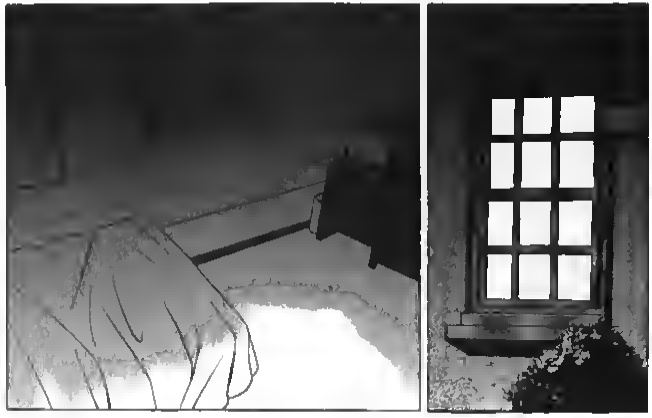
WHY'D YOU DECIDE TO PICK ME?



THANKS FOR TAKING ME HDME. SEE YOU LATER...


ALL RIGHT. WE'RE OFFICIALLY A CDUPLE STARTING TOMORROW, RIGHT?

I'M HOME.
YOU'RE LATE. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE. I TOLD YOU TO COME RIGHT HOME AFTER SCHOOL!
OKAY, OKAY... SORRY, DAD. I'M GOING TO BED NOW.



HUH?
WE'RE OFFICIALLY A COUPLE STARTING TOMORROW.
WE'RE OFFICIALLY A COUPLE.

SERIOUSLY...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR THINK. HOW WEIRD! I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S BEING HONEST OR NOT. BUT...I CAN'T HELP BUT BE EXCITED BY WHAT HE SAID.
HUH?!
KAI!
SHHH!
KAI, ARE YOU CRAZY?
I FORGOT TO DO SOMETHING.

A KISS AS LIGHT AND SOFT AS A BREEZE. THIS DOESN'T FIT HIS PLAYER REPUTATION...
THIS IS TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE NOW MY GIRLFRIEND.
NO. BECAUSE IT'S SO LIGHT AND SOFT... IT'S EVEN MORE ENTICING...
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY...
HE'S NO ORDINARY GUY.
BYE! SWEET DREAMS.

SOUL TO SEOUL

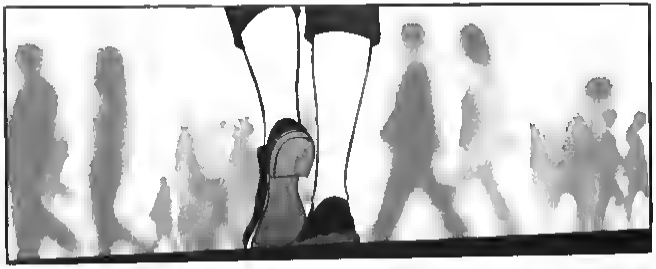
KAI? IT'S ME!
HEY, SPIKE! WHAT'S UP?
Guess you're busy these days. I haven't heard from you at all
Oh, sorry I had some stuff going on
DOESN'T MATTER. ANYWAYS... HOW'S THE THING THAT I ASKED YOU ABOUT GOING?
OH, THAT! YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE TOO LATE.
What?! Late?!
SHE'S ALREADY OFFICIALLY DATING SOMEONE.
REALLY?
Disappointed
AH, THAT'S TOO BAD. SHE WAS EXACTLY MY TYPE. AND IT'S REALLY HARD TO FIND A GIRL LIKE THAT--
Who the hell is he?
HMM... WELL, HE'S VERY GOOD-LOOKING...AND ALSO VERY SMART... HE'S EVEN SEXY AND RICH, TOO.
R-REALLY? SHIT.
DEVASTATED

I WOULD HAVE TRIED IF THERE WAS THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE, BUT...IT'S JUST TOO BAD.
MAYBE. SO THIS DUDE...COULD HE POSSIBLY BE HALF-KOREAN AND HALF-CAUCASIAN? AND A [redacted] PLAYER, TOO?
Phone
How did you know?
You freaking bastard! How could you stab me in the back like that?!
LIGHTEN UP, SPIKE. I'LL GET YOU A BETTER GIRL.
I don't need your help, you jerk! And you call yourself my friend?!
CLICK!
따르르르르
NO, HE'S JOKING. HE WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME. NO WAY!
Pho
HE'S JUST MESSING WITH ME.
삐리리리...
HEY, YOU SHOULD PUT IN ENOUGH COINS.
It's me
OH! DAD!
Interesting way to answer the phone, Kal. Are you busy today?
UH, WHY?

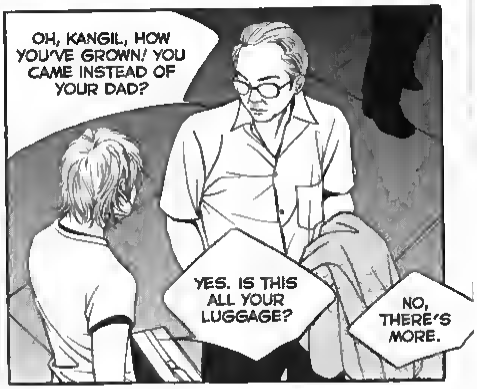
Well, even if you are busy, make some time. I need you to go to the airport
AIRPORT? WHY—WHO'S COMING?
Your grandfather is coming today. You didn't know? Your mom didn't tell you?
G-GRANDFATHER?!
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING TODAY. I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT. COULD YOU GO AND PICK HIM UP?
Me? Wouldn't it be better if Mom goes?
She's busy cleaning the house and cooking. And this will be a great chance for you to become closer with your grandfather--after all, you're the eldest son of the family
...

SHIT!
ALL RIGHT. WHAT TIME IS THE FLIGHT?
UNITED

ARRIVALS
USAIR
DEPARTURES
MIDWEST EXPRESS



GRANDFATHER!

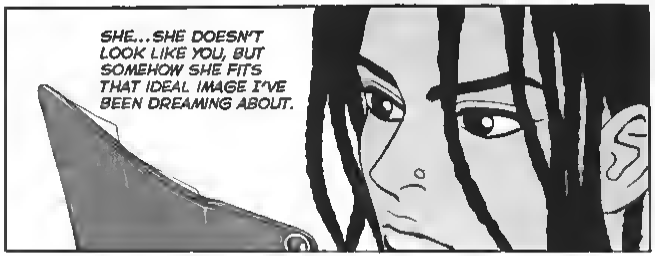

OH, KANGIL, HOW YOU'VE GROWN! YOU CAME INSTEAD OF YOUR DAD?
YES. IS THIS ALL YOUR LUGGAGE?
NO, THERE'S MORE.

SANGYUL?
SANGYUL, HERE!
UGH...I'M GOING TO DIE.
Marlboro
AH?!
WHO IS THIS?
KANGIL! IT'S YOU, RIGHT? KANGIL LEE!
IT'S ME, SANGYUL, YOUR COUSIN! YOU DON'T REMEMBER? WHOA-- REALLY, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
Kangil Lee Kai's Korean name
GRANDFATHER, THIS IS CRAZY! CAN YOU HELP ME OUT A BIT HERE? HOW COULD YOU TAKE OFF WITH JUST YOUR OWN LUGGAGE?
YOU'RE YOUNG--YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
FOR SOME REASON, I'M NOT GETTING A GOOD VIBE. I'VE NEVER HAD GOOD EXPERIENCES WITH ANYONE WHO CALLS ME KANGIL...
WOW, YOU'VE GROWN A BIT, HUH? I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY SAY AMERICA IS GOOD. YOU USED TO BE SHORTER, REMEMBER? WELL, DON'T THINK I FEEL INFERIOR.

WOW! SO THIS IS NEW YORK!
I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SKY BECAUSE OF THE TALL BUILDINGS!
NOW I REMEMBER-- SANGYUL CHOI.
SANGYUL CHOI...
THE NAME I NEVER WANTED TO BE REMINDED OF.
HA HA HA! I'M FINALLY IN NEW YORK!
HOW OLD WAS I THAT TIME I WENT TO KOREA WITH DAD? THEY LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS SOME PITIFUL ANIMAL.
KANGIL, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND? I'M GUESSING NEW YORK GIRLS ARE HOTTER THAN GIRLS FROM SEOUL! IF YOU KNOW ANY HOTTIES, INTRODUCE 'EM TO ME.
YOU'RE DISTRACTING ME FROM DRIVING. COULD YOU SHUT UP?
OUT OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE, SANGYUL WAS THE ONE WHO TORTURED ME THE MOST...
YOU'RE A MIXED-BLOODED, BLOND BASTARD! JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND CRAWL IN THERE!

DID YOU COLOR YOUR HAIR?
UH, YEAH. WHY? DOES IT LOOK OKAY? ALL MY FRIENDS SAID IT LOOKS COOL.
THOUGHT YOU HATED BLONDS.
HA HA HA! DUDE, I GUESS YOU REMEMBER NOW, HUH? THAT WAS ALL IN THE PAST! WE WERE JUST KIDS BACK THEN. WE CAN BE NICER TO EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON.
WHAT? FROM NOW ON?
SINCE WE'LL BE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE, LET'S JUST FORGET OUR PAST GRUDGES AND TRY TO GET ALONG
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU, COUSIN!
WHAT IS HE SAYING? WHY IS THIS BASTARD SAYING THAT HE'S GOING TO LIVE IN MY HOUSE? WHY WOULD HE?

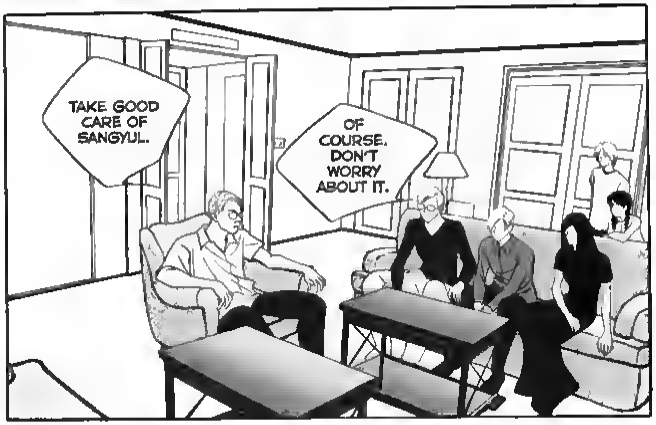
MOM...
The Perceptia
CALIFORNIA
VISA
GOLD'S GYM
I'ALWAYS DREAMED OF MEETING A GIRL JUST LIKE YOU
SINCE I WAS A KID, YOU WERE NUMBER ONE IN MY EYES


SHE...SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU, BUT SOMEHOW SHE FITS THAT IDEAL IMAGE I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT.

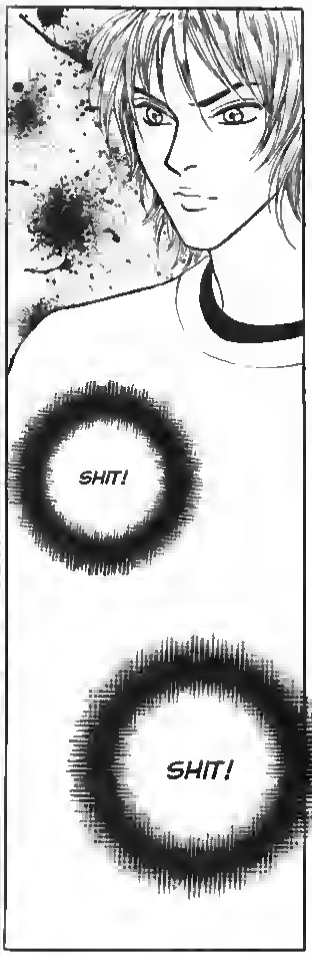
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I CAN'T GET HER OFF MY MIND. THE MOMENT I MET HER, I FELT LIKE HARLEM HAD ALL OF A SUDDEN BECOME BRIGHTER.
THE KOREAN GIRL WITH HUGE, ROUND, SURPRISED EYES... HOW COULD I FORGET THAT EXPRESSION?
IS KAI REALLY TELLING ME THE TRUTH? IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT PLAYER HAS FOUND SOMEONE TO GO STEADY WITH, BUT TO THINK THAT HE'S GOING OUT WITH HER...

KAI, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
SHAQ, ARE YOU STILL WATCHING TV? DON'T YOU HAVE TO STUDY?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
I'LL BE BACK.
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK? I NEED SOME MONEY...

DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL.

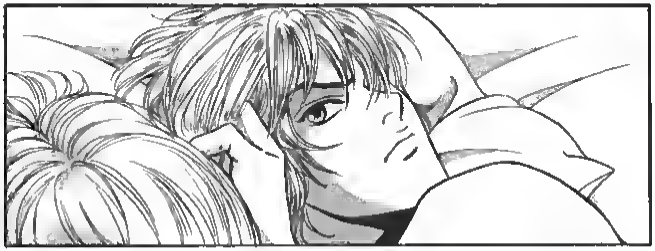

TAKE GOOD CARE OF SANGYUL.
OF COURSE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

AND, SANGYUL TRY TO BEHAVE— ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY'RE LETTING YOU STAY HERE
DON'T WORRY, GRANDFATHER.


SHIT!
SHIT!

SOUL TO SEOUL
SHOT #2: Obstacle

THAT'S MY GRANDSON?
THAT HIDEOUS-LOOKING WHITE BOY IS MY GRANDSON?
FATHER...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT! I DID NOT TEACH YOU TO BE LIKE THIS!
I CANNOT ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THAT YELLOW-HAIRED BASTARD CHILD WILL CARRY THE LEE FAMILY NAME. I KNOW YOU MARRIED THE GIRL OUT OF LOVE, BUT HOW COULD YOU DISGRACE THE FAMILY LIKE THIS?
NOW CAN I POSSIBLY FACE OUR ANCESTORS?
TAKE HIM AWAY RIGHT NOW! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU EVER AGAIN!
SO YOU'RE THAT COUSIN OF MINE FROM AMERICA...
YOUR MOM, DAD, AND SIS ARE ALL BLACK-HAIRED KOREANS. WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WITH BLOND HAIR? HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, YOU LITTLE JERK? CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING? YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND KOREAN?
AGH!



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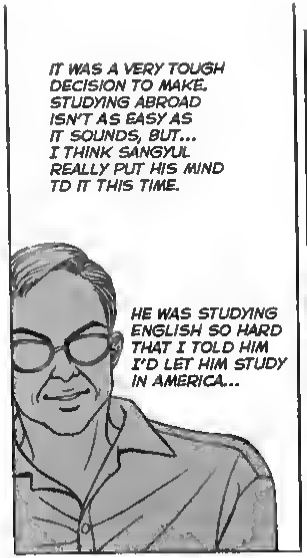
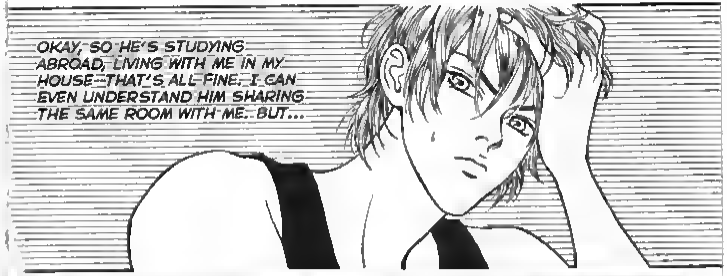
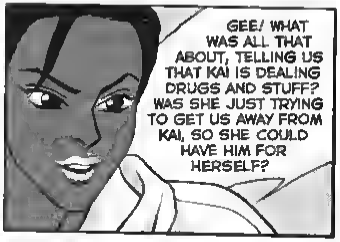

IT WAS A VERY TOUGH DECISION TO MAKE. STUDYING ABROAD ISN'T AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS, BUT... I THINK SANGYUL REALLY PUT HIS MIND TO IT THIS TIME.
HE WAS STUDYING ENGLISH SO HARD THAT I TOLD HIM I'D LET HIM STUDY IN AMERICA...

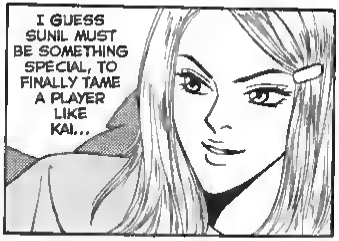
SINCE HE AND KANGIL ARE THE SAME AGE, THEY COULD BE GOOD FRIENDS.
TAKE CARE OF SANGYUL


OKAY, SO HE'S STUDYING ABROAD, LIVING WITH ME IN MY HOUSE--THAT'S ALL FINE. I CAN EVEN UNDERSTAND HIM SHARING THE SAME ROOM WITH ME. BUT...

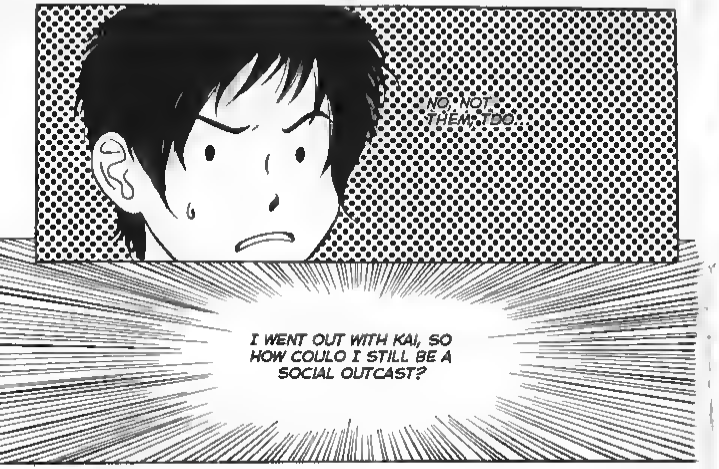
...SHARING THE SAME BED WITH THIS LEECH...
I CAN'T STAND IT!

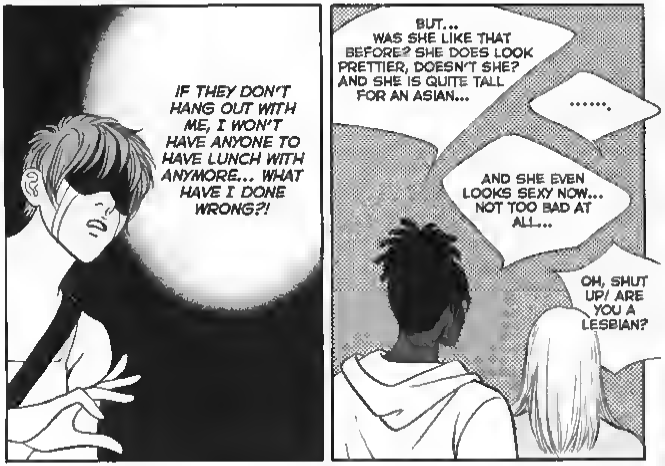
WHAT? KAI AND SUNIL?
YES, THEY'RE OFFICIAL NOW. I HEARD KAI SAYING THAT HE WON'T DATE ANYONE ELSE FROM NOW ON.
SERIOUSLY?

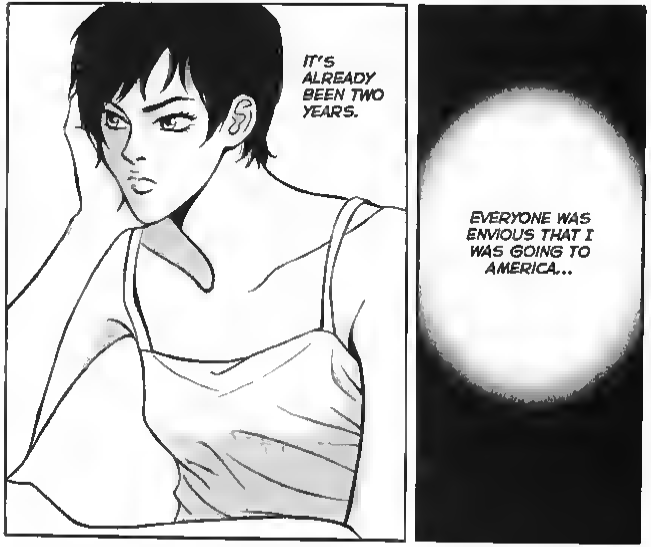

GEE! WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT, TELLING US THAT KAI IS DEALING DRUGS AND STUFF? WAS SHE JUST TRYING TO GET US AWAY FROM KAI, SO SHE COULD HAVE HIM FOR HERSELF?

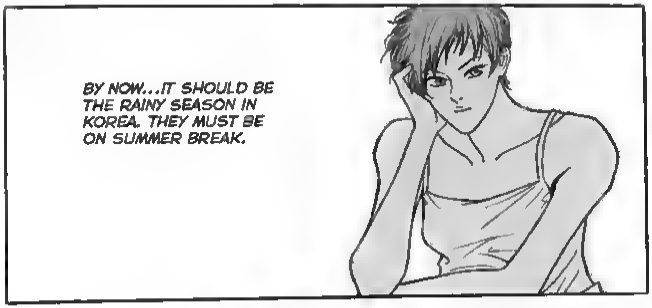

I GUESS SUNIL MUST BE SOMETHING SPECIAL, TO FINALLY TAME A PLAYER LIKE KAI...

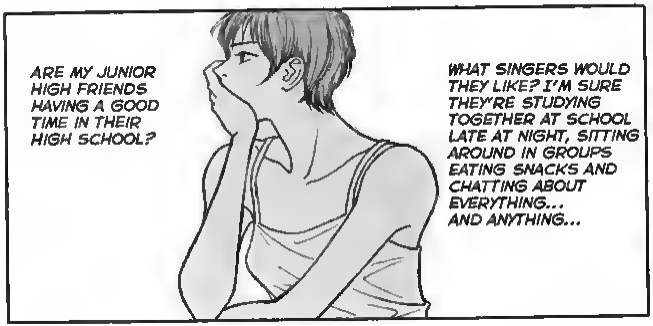
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
GUYS! WHAT'S GOING ON?
"OLO"!
WHAT DOES SHE HAVE THAT I DON'T?!
MAYBE THEY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON, SINCE THEY'RE BOTH ASIANS.


NO NOT THEM TOO!
I WENT OUT WITH KAI, SO HOW COULD I STILL BE A SOCIAL OUTCAST?

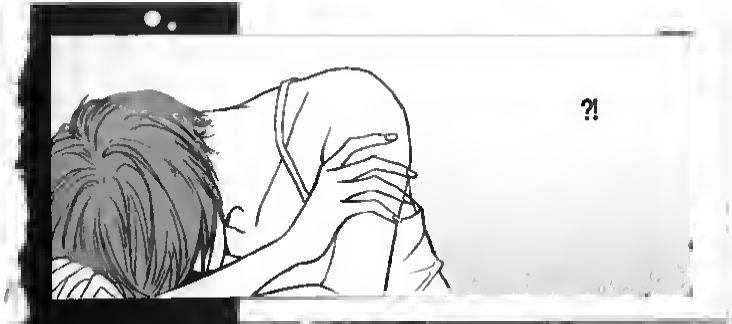

IF THEY DON'T HANG OUT WITH ME, I WON'T HAVE ANYONE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH ANYMORE... WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?!
BUT... WAS SHE LIKE THAT BEFORE? SHE DOES LOOK PRETTIER, DOESN'T SHE? AND SHE IS QUITE TALL FOR AN ASIAN...
.....
AND SHE EVEN LOOKS SEXY NOW... NOT TOO BAD AT ALL...
OH, SHUT UP! ARE YOU A LESBIAN?


IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS.
EVERYONE WAS ENVIOUS THAT I WAS GOING TO AMERICA...


BY NOW...IT SHOULD BE THE RAINY SEASON IN KOREA. THEY MUST BE ON SUMMER BREAK.


ARE MY JUNIOR HIGH FRIENDS HAVING A GOOD TIME IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL?
WHAT SINGERS WOULD THEY LIKE? I'M SURE THEY'RE STUDYING TOGETHER AT SCHOOL LATE AT NIGHT, SITTING AROUND IN GROUPS EATING SNACKS AND CHATTING ABOUT EVERYTHING... AND ANYTHING...

WOULD I BE ABLE TO HANG OUT WITH THEM AGAIN AND NOT BE TREATED LIKE A STRANGER WHEN I SEE THEM?


?!

HUGO BOSS?

KAI!

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU GETTING HOMESICK?

OH NO, I GUESS YOU ALREADY ARE.
Here's some tissues.
YOU REALLY MISS KOREA THAT MUCH? SO MUCH THAT YOU'D CRY ABOUT IT?

HOW COME SANGYUL DOESN'T GET HOMESICK? I HOPE HE GETS IT QUICK AND GOES BACK.

SANGYUL? WHO'S SANGYUL?
He has another brother?

AH....WELL, HE'S A RELATIVE FROM MY DAD'S SIDE. CAME FROM KOREA A FEW DAYS AGO. I GUESS HE'LL BE AROUND FOR SOME TIME. WE'RE SHARING MY ROOM SINCE IT'S BIG, BUT HIS SLEEPING HABITS SUCK--IT'S HARD TO GET A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP THESE DAYS...

WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR A WALK?

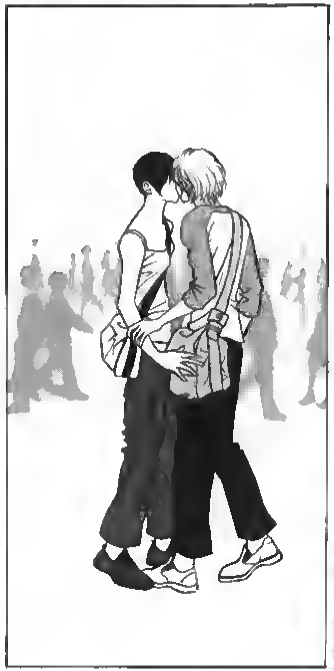
...HONESTLY...
I STILL DON'T KNOW KAI TOO WELL, BUT...
...RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T LET GO OF HIS HAND.

IT'S OKAY IF HE'S NOT SERIOUS. IT'S OKAY IF HE'S JUST PLAYING AROUND.

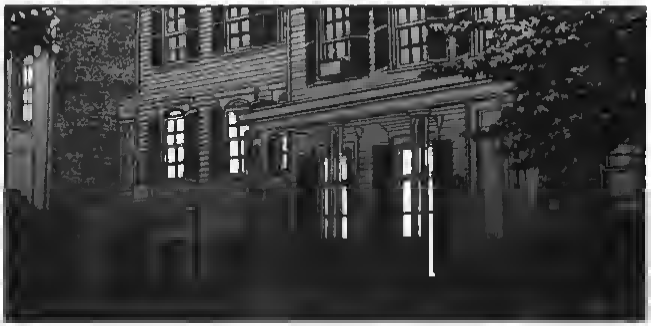
IT'S EVEN OKAY IF HE'S HIDING SECRETS THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE'S WITH ME RIGHT NOW.

There's mustard on your cheek...



KAI, UP UNTIL RIGHT NOW, I BELIEVED YOU WERE MY FRIEND.

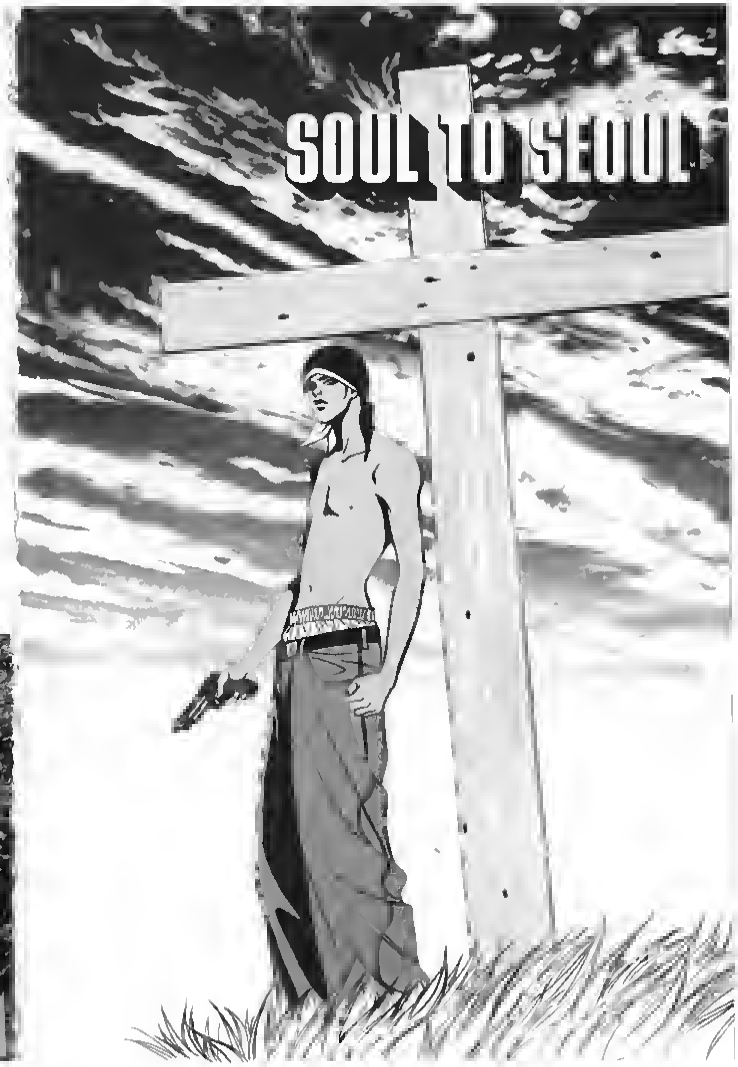


WHERE'S EVERYONE? WHY'RE YOU HERE ALONE?
EVERYONE WENT SIGHTSEEING AROUND MANHATTAN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO WITH THEM?
I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT LOTS OF TIMES. I'D RATHER STAY HOME AND READ.

J.J., DO YOU LIKE THIS HOUSE?

OF COURSE.

I HATE IT. I CAN'T BREATHE FROM THE MOMENT I ENTER THIS HOUSE


SOUL TO SEOUL

AGH!

WHAT IS THIS?
SHIT!

WHY'D YOU YELL? WHAT'S WRONG?

J.J., WAS THERE A BURGLAR IN THE HOUSE? WHO ROBBED JUST MY ROOM?
!

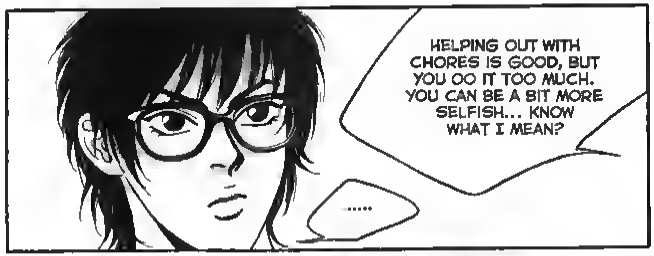
OH, NO...

MY GOD!
CUBA

WHEW... WHAT A MESS.

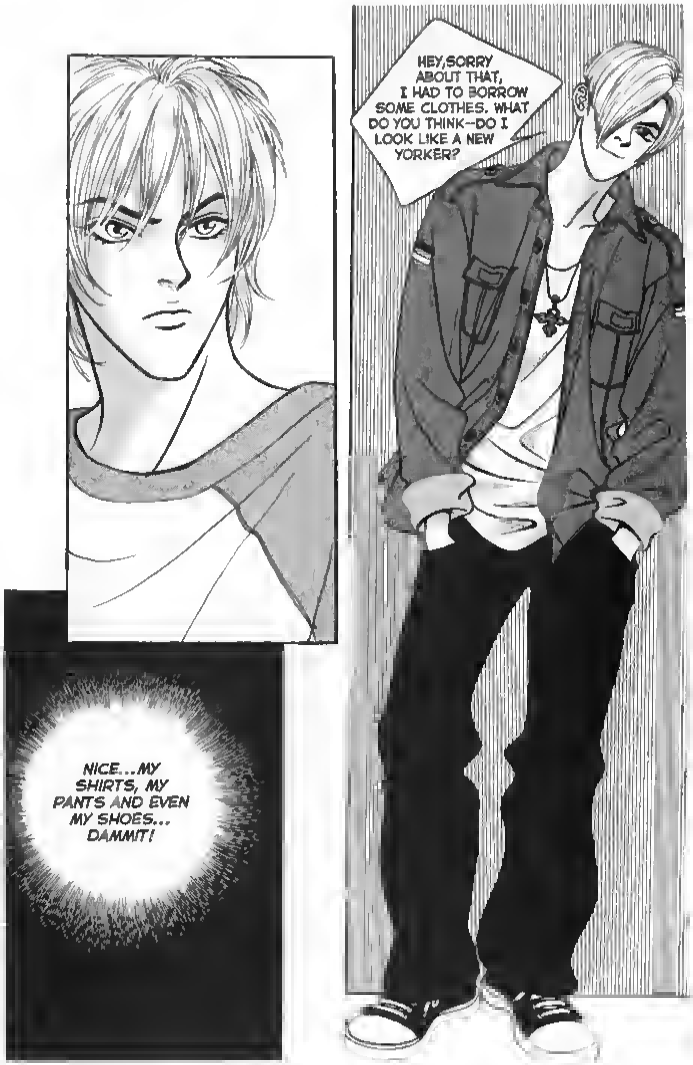
I'LL CLEAN UP. IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A SHOWER?
I CAN'T EVEN HANG IN MY OWN ROOM ANYMORE!
The jerk

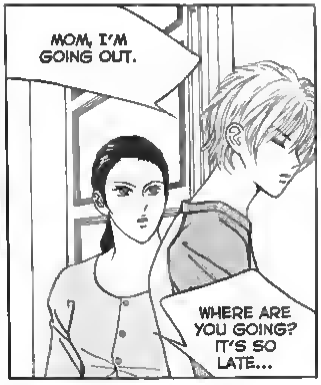
OON'T. THE PERSON WHO MADE THIS MESS SHOULD CLEAN IT UP. YOU'RE NOT A HOUSEMAID.

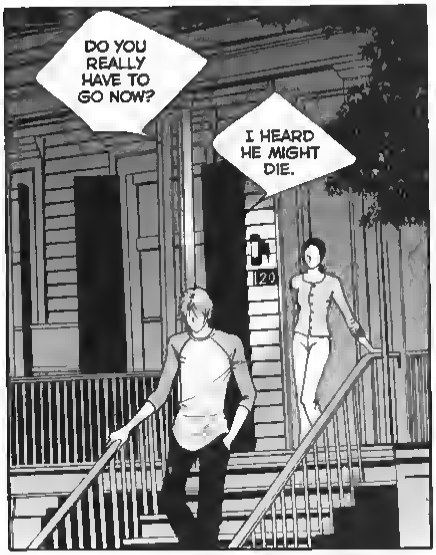

HELPING OUT WITH CHORES IS GOOD, BUT YOU OO IT TOO MUCH. YOU CAN BE A BIT MORE SELFISH... KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
.....

DON'T TOUCH A THING, OKAY? JUST TELL SANGYUL TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS BEFORE I COME BACK.
UH...ARE YOU GOING OUT AGAIN?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO MEET FRIENDS.
WOW, THAT WAS FUN.
KAI!
ARE YOU HOME?
DID YOU HAVE DINNER, KAI? DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE JUST HAD? FILET MIGNON! YOUR FAVORITE!


NICE...MY SHIRTS, MY PANTS AND EVEN MY SHOES... DAMMIT!
HEY, SORRY ABOUT THAT, I HAD TO BORROW SOME CLOTHES. WHAT DO YOU THINK--DO I LOOK LIKE A NEW YORKER?



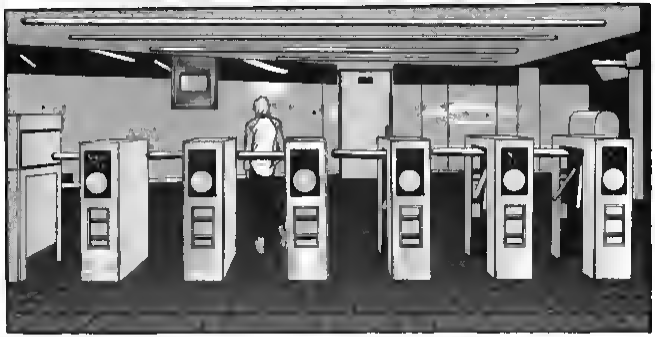


WHEN... DID KAI START LYING WITHOUT BLINKING AN EYE AND HANGING OUT IN THE STREETS AT NIGHT?

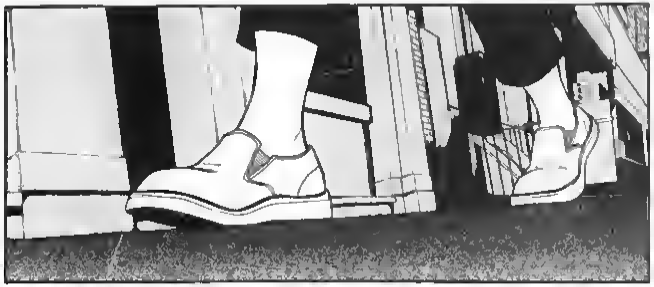
AND WHY...WHY CAN'T I STOP HIM WHEN HE'S SO OBVIOUSLY LYING?

18 Street
Station

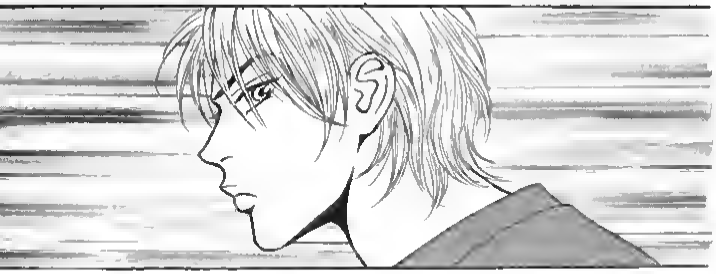
Token
entry



YEAH, I'M HEADING THERE NOW. CALL THEM OUT.



STOP



STOP

!
LOOKIN' FOR A GOOD TIME, CUTE BABE?
!
SO, KID, WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

MOM? SHE WANTS YOU TO MONITOR WHAT I'M DOING?
MOM...ASKED ME TO FOLLOW YOU. SHE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

HAH... WORRIED, HUH? GUESS SHE DOES WORRY ABOUT HER SON AFTER ALL.
BUT YOU WORRY ME MORE. IT'S DANGEROUS AT NIGHT. GO BACK HOME, KID.
TELL MOM EVERYTHING'S FINE. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, RIGHT?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GO HOME?
SINCE IT'S SO DANGEROUS I SHOULD STAY WITH YOU. WE CAN GO HOME TOGETHER
I'M NOT GOING BACK HOME TONIGHT.
THEN WE'LL GO BACK TOMORROW, TOGETHER
THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR A KID LIKE YOU.
I DON'T MIND, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.
IT'S SCARY TO SEE YOU SMILING WITH THAT BLOOD DRIPPING. J-J , CLEAN UP YOUR FACE.

J. J., SOMEHOW I THINK YOU FIT IN BETTER IN THAT HOUSE THAN I DO.
DON'T SAY THAT, KAI. COMPARED TO YOU, I'M NOTHING...

BOSS! LONG TIME NO SEE.
WELCOME BACK.
HOW'S EVERYTHING GOING?
WHO'S THE KID?

JUST FORGET ABOUT IT. DO YOU REALLY WANNA THROW AWAY YOUR FRIENDSHIP OVER A GIRL? IS THAT ALL YOU CAN DO? WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT...

STILL, GETTING MAD IS GETTING MAD. I'M ONLY HUMAN...

DO YOU THINK YOU DESERVE HER? YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR PLACE. JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF.

AT MYSELF?

BLACK BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH YOUR VEINS. BLACK SKIN AND A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT. DON'T HAVE A MOM, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC DAD AND A KID BROTHER WHO KNOWS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE...

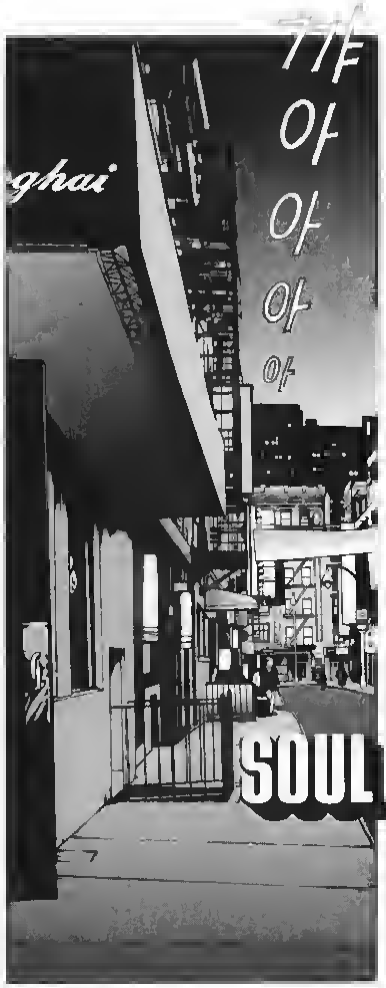
SHUT UP! I REFUSE TO LET THAT DEPRESS ME...

HOW ABOUT THE GIRL? SHE WOULD BE DISGUSTED IF SHE KNEW...
KAI?
?
SHIT... DAMMIT! SO I'M HALLUCINATING NOW. WHAT PSYCHOSIS IS THIS, SPIKE?
AHHH... MY HEAD— MY HEAD HURTS!

GET OUTTA HERE! WHAT KINDA RAP IS THAT?
DUDE IT HIT HIM RIGHT IN THE HEAD
PUNK! ALL HE'S GOT IS A NICE BODY, THAT'S IT!
HEY, HOW DID IT TASTE?
SPORTS
THAT BEER'S FROM ASIA AND TASTES LIKE SHIT/ JUST LIKE YOUR RAP!
SPIKE, YOU OKAY?
HOW...DOES IT TASTE?

MINE TASTED PRETTY BAD.

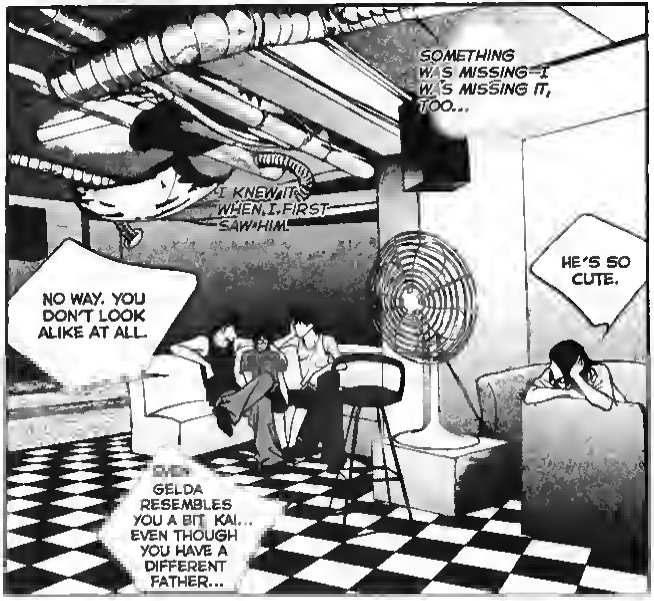
DOES YOURS TASTE ANY BETTER?



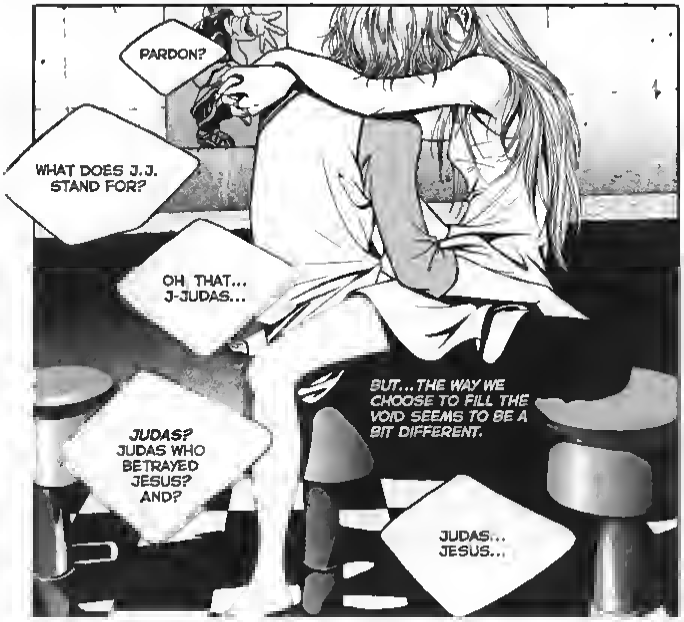
SOUL TO SEOUL

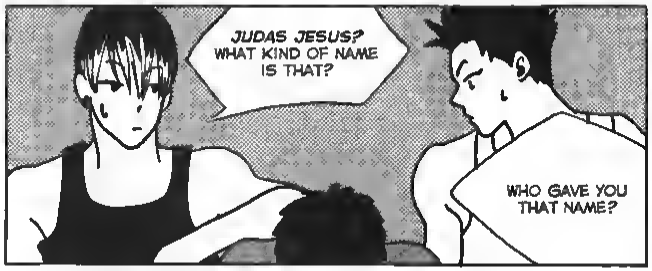
SHOT #3: J.J.

BROTHER? ARE YOU REALLY HIS BROTHER?
HE AND I ARE THE SAME.
.....


SOMETHING WAS MISSING—I WAS MISSING IT, TOO...
I KNEW IT WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM.
HE'S SO CUTE.
NO WAY. YOU DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL.
EVEN GELDA RESEMBLES YOU A BIT, KAI... EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT FATHER...

WOULD YOU STOP LOOKING AT ME? I KNOW YOU CAME AS KAI'S GUARD, BUT STILL... YOU'RE GONNA GET HURT IF YOU KEEP DOING THAT. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
OH?... OH... J.J.!
J.J.? HEY, SOUNDS LIKE MY NAME. I'M J.K. WHAT DO YOUR INITIALS STAND FOR?

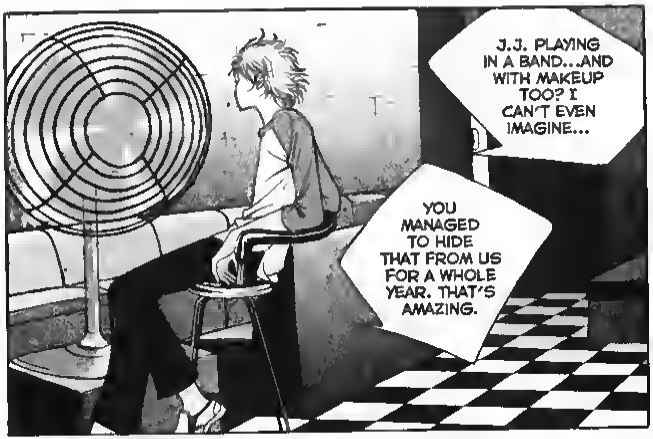

PARDON?
WHAT DOES J.J. STAND FOR?
OH, THAT... J-JUDAS...
JUDAS? JUDAS WHO BETRAYED JESUS? AND?
BUT... THE WAY WE CHOOSE TO FILL THE VOID SEEMS TO BE A BIT DIFFERENT.
JUDAS... JESUS...



I REALLY DO TRY MY BEST TO FILL THAT VOID AS BEST I CAN.

FOR ME, IT'S LIKE A SURVIVAL INSTINCT.

YEAH! NOW I REMEMBER! J.J. FROM NOBO-D!
UH...YOU KNOW ABOUT NOBO-D?
YEAH. IT HIT ME JUST NOW, WHEN YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S JUDAS JESUS. I REMEMBERED BECAUSE THAT BAND'S SINGER'S SO CUTE AND HIS NAME'S REALLY UNIQUE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NOBO-D?
REMEMBER THE PUNK CLUB NOOKIE? NOBO-D IS ONE OF THE BANDS THAT'S PLAYED THERE.
REALLY? THIS LITTLE KID PLAYS IN A BAND?
HE DIDN'T LOOK THIS YOUNG WHEN I SAW HIM.
I-I'M NOT THAT YOUNG I'M ALREADY... 14...
WHAT? 14?!
YOU LOOK YOUNG. BUT 14? WHEN I SAW YOU BACK THEN...I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST 20.
WHOA--BOY WAS I FOOLED. YOU DON'T LOOK YOUNG, YOU ARE YOUNG!
WHEN I PERFORM, I PUT ON SOME MAKEUP, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO LOOK TOO YOUNG... BUT 20? THAT'S A BIT TOO OLD.


J.J. PLAYING IN A BAND...AND WITH MAKEUP TOO? I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE...
YOU MANAGED TO HIDE THAT FROM US FOR A WHOLE YEAR. THAT'S AMAZING.

I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S AMAZING...
WHEN YOUR FAMILY FINDS OUT THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY HANGING OUT IN THE BACK STREETS, WHAT WILL THEY THINK?

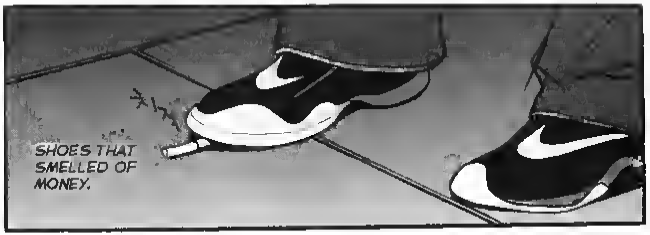
WHOA, HE'S NOT SO NAIVE. KAI, I THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STEP DOWN AS OUR BOSS.

ARE THEY REALLY BROTHERS? THEY DON'T LOOK ALIKE, BUT SOMETHING SEEMS SIMILAR.
WHAT'S SIMILAR? WE'RE NOT RELATED AT ALL.

WHAT? YOU SAID HE'S YOUR BROTHER!
I KNOW, HE DID. THEN WHO IS THIS KID?

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S ALREADY LIVED WITH US FOR A YEAR. REMEMBER BACK THEN?
THAT SKINNY HOMELESS BOY WHO STOLE MY WALLET...

U.S.ARMY
SOUL TO SEOUL



HOW DO I PUT IT? IT WAS LIKE WATCHING A ZOMBIE...WITHOUT ANY LIFE ENERGY. THAT WAS MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF J.J.

Ugh. I smell something rotten
42
HEY! MY WALLET!
42
@#MME BACK MY WALLET!
42
HE WAS RUNNING PRETTY WELL FOR A ZOMBIE.
BUT HE CHOSE THE WRONG OPPONENT. I CAN RUN THE HUNDRED IN 12 SECONDS!

I COULD'VE GONE AFTER HIM AND CAUGHT HIM IF I'D WANTED TO.
BUT...
U.S. ARMY

42
U.S. ARMY
I DIDN'T WANT TO JUMP ON THE RAILS FOR A WALLET THAT HELD JUST FIVE BUCKS AND A CREDIT CARD.

THE ONLY THING WAS... THAT WALLET WAS A BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM GELDA, WHICH SHE BOUGHT AFTER SAVING FOR MONTHS...

42

Sh't he's not a zombie

Sorry Gelda

I'm sure your father's life is more important than a wallet right?

HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GELDA'S AGE... HOW DISAPPOINTED HE'D BE WHEN HE OPENED THAT WALLET HE RISKED HIS LIFE FOR. HE WAS SO DETERMINED TO GET THE WALLET THAT I ALMOST FELT SORRY FOR HIM.

Wish I'd put in some more money

SPIKE, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DROP OUT?

YEP.

I WON'T HAVE ANY FUN WITHOUT YOU.

DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL FOR FUN? YOU'RE POPULAR WITH GIRLS--WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?

I'M TIRED OF THEM.

YOU TELL ME THAT ALL THE TIME BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH NEW GIRLS EVERY TIME I SEE YOU.

ANYWAY... CAN'T YOU GET A SCHOLAR-SHIP?

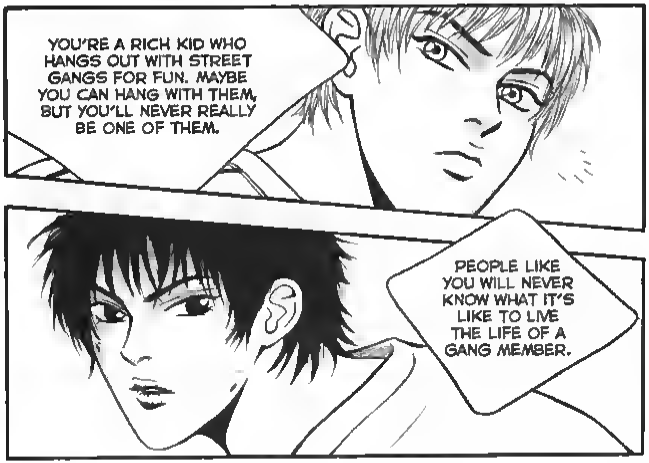
SCHOLARSHIP?

IF IT WAS JUST ABOUT ME, DO YOU THINK I'D DO THIS? I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY, TOO

HOW? ARE YOU GONNA WORK AS A CLOCKER?
GUESS I COULD TRY THAT, TOO.

COME ON, LET'S THINK OF OTHER THINGS. THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY. SHOULD I ASK MY DAD? MAYBE GET A LOAN?
NO! I DON'T WANT ANY SYMPATHY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE SYMPATHY? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE EASIEST WAY TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD IS? IT'S LETTING GO OF SENSELESS PRIDE.

PRIDE? THE ONLY THING I HAVE IS PRIDE. IF I LET GO OF THAT, WHAT WOULD BE LEFT OF ME?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HITTING ROCK BOTTOM MEANS.
ROCK BOTTOM?


YOU'RE A RICH KID WHO HANGS OUT WITH STREET GANGS FOR FUN. MAYBE YOU CAN HANG WITH THEM, BUT YOU'LL NEVER REALLY BE ONE OF THEM.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A GANG MEMBER.

IT'S HIM!
?!
WHAT IS IT, KAI?

ACTUALLY, I JUST RAN AWAY WITHOUT KNOWING WHO YOU WERE. I HAD DONE TOO MANY BAD THINGS AT THE TIME...
FOR A KID LIKE ME, THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE ON THE STREETS IS EITHER TO COLLECT AND RESELL RECYCLED GOODS OR TO PICK POCKETS...
I JUST INSTINCTIVELY RAN. WHEN I REALIZED SOMEONE WAS CHASING AFTER ME, I'D ALREADY ENDED UP GETTING CAUGHT THAT DAY...
HEY! WAIT!
YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO THIS TIME!
Gasp!

GIVE MY WALLET BACK.
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE JUST MY WALLET.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MY SISTER NAGGED ME BECAUSE I LOST THAT WALLET?
I ALREADY... THREW IT AWAY. AFTER I TOOK OUT THE CASH...
.....!
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
DO YOU WANNA COME WITH ME?
I PROBABLY HAVE SOME FOOD AT HOME.
I KNOW THIS MIGHT SOUND FUNNY...
...BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE TO ME THAT DAY?

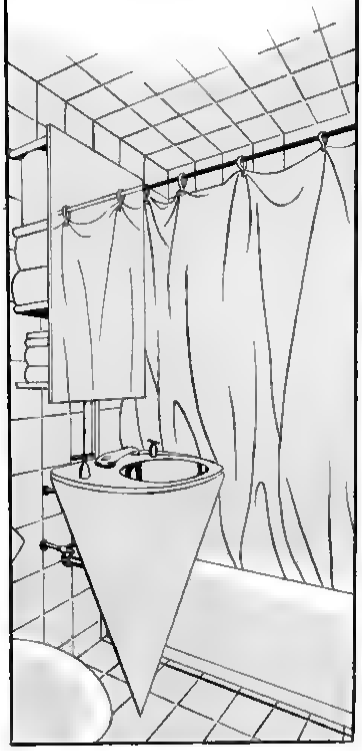
*Stomach growling

YOU LOOKED LIKE AN ANGEL WHO CAME DOWN FROM THE GRAY MANHATTAN SKY.

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET YOUR BROTHER TODAY, AND I JUST CAME ALONG WITH HIM. SO PLEASE DON'T BE MAD. I'LL LEAVE SOON.
YOU HAVE SUCH A PRETTY FACE, BUT IT LOOKS INTIMIDATING BECAUSE YOU KEEP GROWLING LIKE THAT.
IF YOU DON'T MIND... CAN I WASH UP BEFORE I LEAVE?

I THINK IT HAO BEEN TWO MONTHS...SINCE I TOOK A HOT BATH.

NEW SOAP. THE SCENT OF SHAMPOO. CLEAN TOWELS...



THERE WAS A FEELING OF HAPPINESS THAT I HAON'T FELT FOR SO LONG.

THE FEELING I WANTEO MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WHOLE WIOE WORLO...

IT IS...

...THE HAPPINESS OF FAMILY.

AFTER THAT DAY, I STAYED AT THE HOUSE.

EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A REAL MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, KAI'S PARENTS DECIDED TO LOOK AFTER ME UNTIL I COULD FIND GOOD FOSTER PARENTS.

WITH THE FAMILY THAT LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE ME...

SCARY KID... YOU WERE LIVING IN THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN? ALL BY YOURSELF? THEN YOUR LIFE CHANGED AFTER YOU MET THIS "ANGEL WHO CAME DOWN FROM THE GRAY MANHATTAN SKY," HUH?

ANGEL? WHAT ANGEL?! I WAS JUST GOING TO FEED HIM. IT WAS MOM WHO WANTED TO KEEP HIM AROUND GUESS SHE FELT THE NEED TO LOOK AFTER THE KOREAN KID

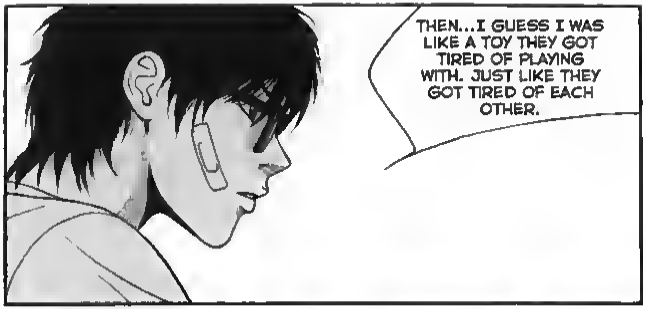
EITHER WAY, I WAS VERY LUCKY TO MEET YOU, KAI.

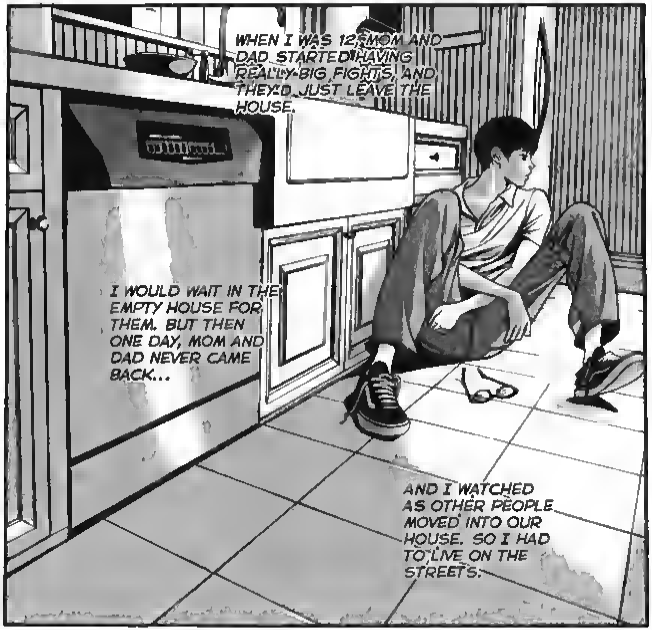
HOW--WHEN DID YOU START LIVING LIKE THAT? WITHOUT ANYONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU...

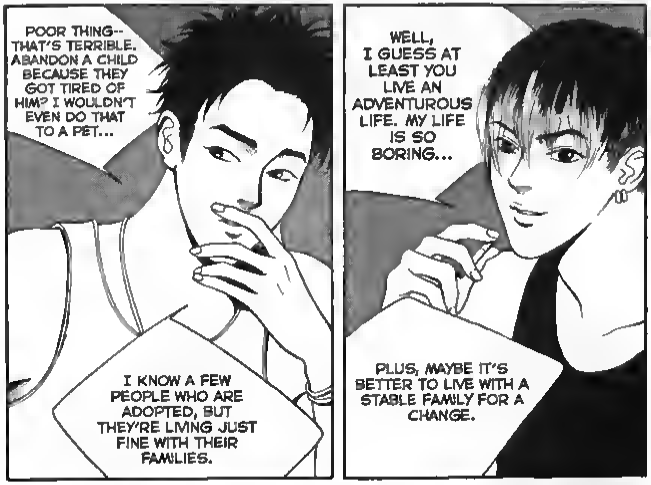
UNTIL I WAS 12, I HAD A MOM AND A DAD, TOO. EVEN THOUGH OUR SKIN COLORS WERE DIFFERENT.

100 DAYS AFTER I WAS BORN, I FOUND A MOM AND A DAD TO RAISE ME. I FLEW ALL THE WAY AROUND THE WORLD TO MEET THEM.

MY BLACK DAD CALLED ME JUDAS, AND MY WHITE MOM CALLED ME JESUS.
THEY WERE REALLY MISCHIE-VOUS PEOPLE.
MAYBE THE WEIRD NAME AND INTENTIONALLY ADOPTING AN ASIAN KID WAS DUE TO THEIR MISCHIEVOUS NATURE.

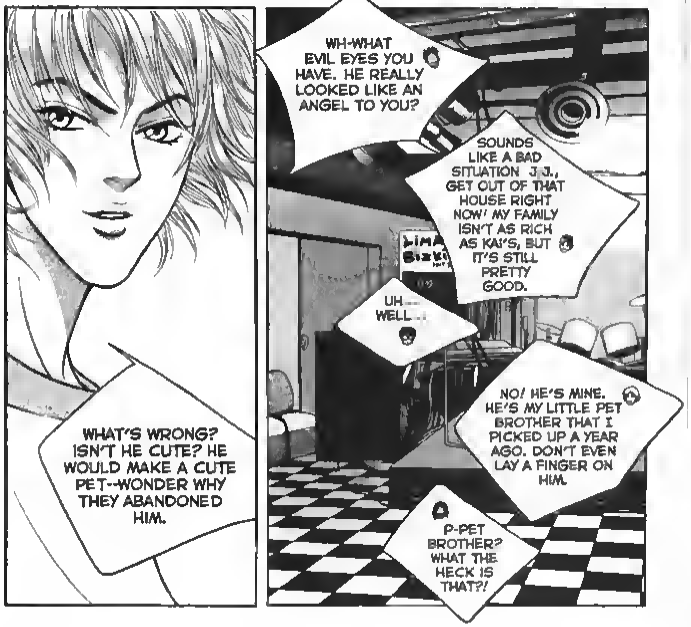

THEN...I GUESS I WAS LIKE A TOY THEY GOT TIRED OF PLAYING WITH. JUST LIKE THEY GOT TIRED OF EACH OTHER.

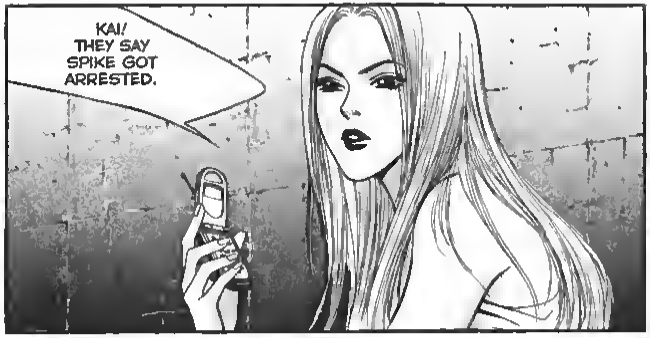

WHEN I WAS 12, MOM AND DAD STARTED HAVING REALLY BIG FIGHTS, AND THEY'D JUST LEAVE THE HOUSE.
I WOULD WAIT IN THE EMPTY HOUSE FOR THEM. BUT THEN ONE DAY, MOM AND DAD NEVER CAME BACK...
AND I WATCHED AS OTHER PEOPLE MOVED INTO OUR HOUSE. SO I HAD TO LIVE ON THE STREETS.


POOR THING--THAT'S TERRIBLE. ABANDON A CHILD BECAUSE THEY GOT TIRED OF HIM? I WOULDN'T EVEN DO THAT TO A PET...
I KNOW A FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ADOPTED, BUT THEY'RE LIVING JUST FINE WITH THEIR FAMILIES.
WELL, I GUESS AT LEAST YOU LIVE AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE. MY LIFE IS SO BORING...
PLUS, MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO LIVE WITH A STABLE FAMILY FOR A CHANGE.

ANYWAYS, IT'S ALREADY BEEN A YEAR. HE FEELS LIKE A FAMILY MEMBER TO ME NOW.
WELL...GELDA STILL GETS HYSTERICAL WHEN SHE SEES HIM, BUT THAT'S OKAY. DON'T MIND HER, J.J.

WHOA...
HAD YOU BEEN LESS CUTE, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE PICKED YOU UP THAT DAY.
HEY--WHAT'S THAT, A CORNY JOKE?


WHAT'S WRONG? ISN'T HE CUTE? HE WOULD MAKE A CUTE PET--WONDER WHY THEY ABANDONED HIM.
WH-WHAT EVIL EYES YOU HAVE. HE REALLY LOOKED LIKE AN ANGEL TO YOU?
SOUNDS LIKE A BAD SITUATION J.J., GET OUT OF THAT HOUSE RIGHT NOW! MY FAMILY ISN'T AS RICH AS KAI'S, BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY GOOD.
UH... WELL...
NO! HE'S MINE. HE'S MY LITTLE PET BROTHER THAT I PICKED UP A YEAR AGO. DON'T EVEN LAY A FINGER ON HIM.
P-PET BROTHER? WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!


KAI! THEY SAY SPIKE GOT ARRESTED.

WHAT?!
SPIKE GOT ARRESTED? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

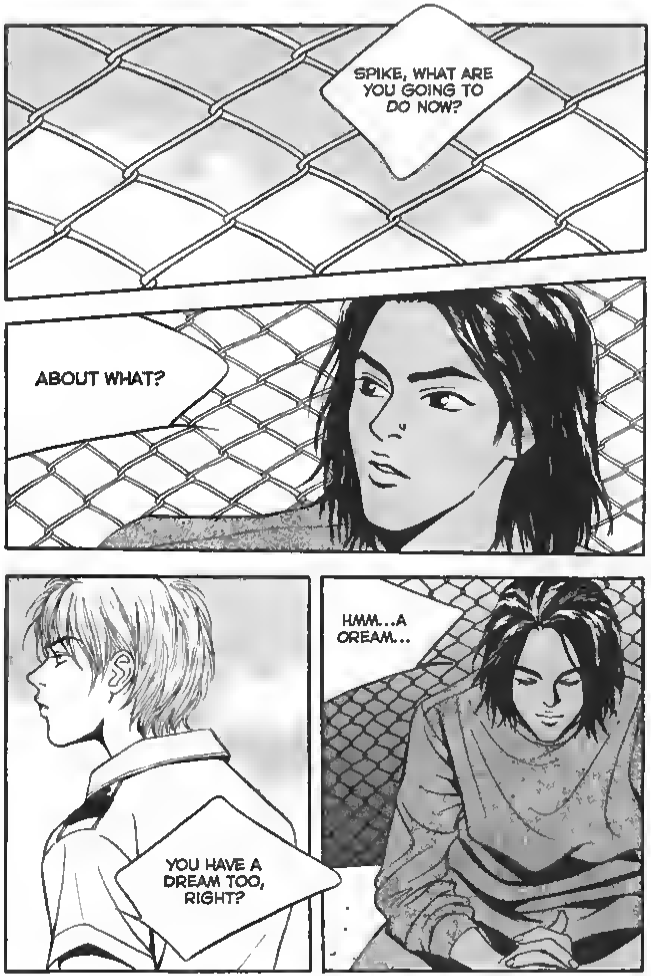
HE WAS PERFORMING AT THE CLUB...AND GOT INTO A FIGHT. IT WAS JUST THE USUAL BANTERING FROM THE CROWD.

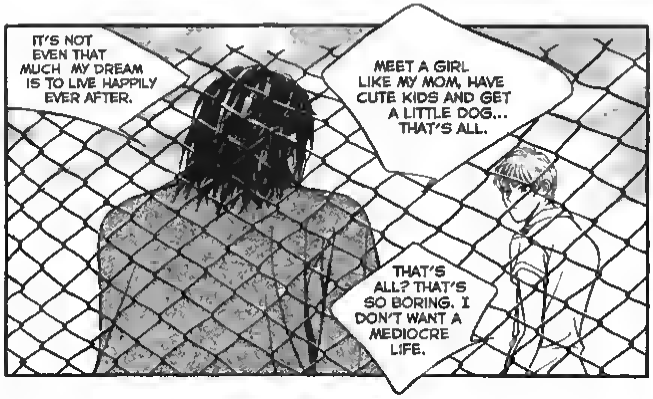
BUT TONIGHT SPIKE RESPONDED REALLY VIOLENTLY AND COMPLETELY KNOCKED THE OTHER GUY DOWN...

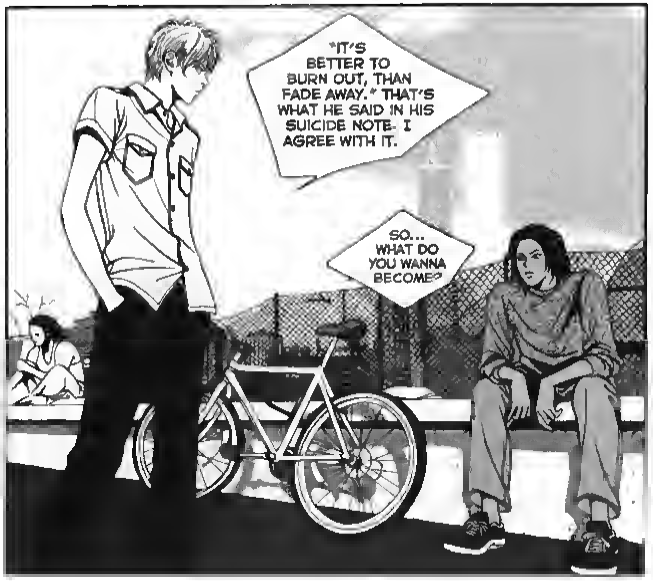
THE COPS CAME AND ARRESTED SPIKE AS THE INSTIGATOR. HE COULDN'T RUN AWAY.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
SOUL TO SEOUL
SHOT #4: Where Did I Sleep Last Night?
JESUS

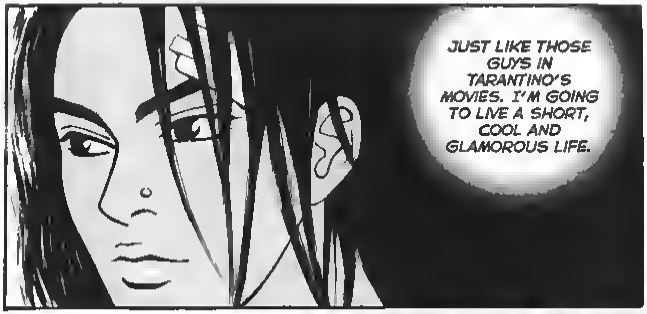
SPIKE, SCHOOL FEELS SO EMPTY SINCE YOU LEFT. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.
DO YOU THINK I WANTED TO DROP OUT? DON'T SAY THAT KIND OF THING IN FRONT ME. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE.
I'M SORRY...BUT I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. I FELT SECURE WITH YOU, BUT NOW... I FEEL LIKE A KITTEN THAT'S LOST ITS WAY.

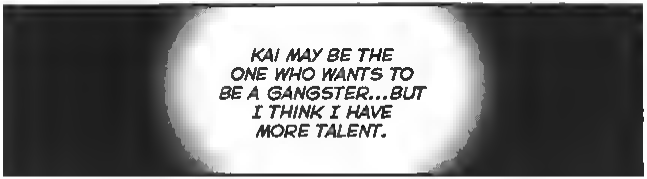

SPIKE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
ABOUT WHAT?
YOU HAVE A DREAM TOO, RIGHT?
HMM...A DREAM...

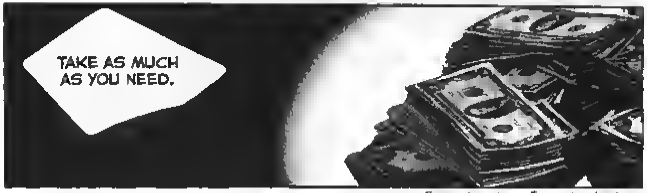

IT'S NOT EVEN THAT MUCH. MY DREAM IS TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
MEET A GIRL LIKE MY MOM, HAVE CUTE KIDS AND GET A LITTLE DOG... THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S ALL? THAT'S SO BORING. I DON'T WANT A MEDIOCRE LIFE.


"IT'S BETTER TO BURN OUT, THAN FADE AWAY." THAT'S WHAT HE SAID IN HIS SUICIDE NOTE. I AGREE WITH IT.
SO... WHAT DO YOU WANNA BECOME?

I'M GOING TO BE A GANGSTER.
JUST WAIT AND SEE. THIS IS NOT SOME RICH KID'S IDLE DREAM. I'M REALLY GONNA BE A COOL GANGSTER.







Special casting Team leader Lee

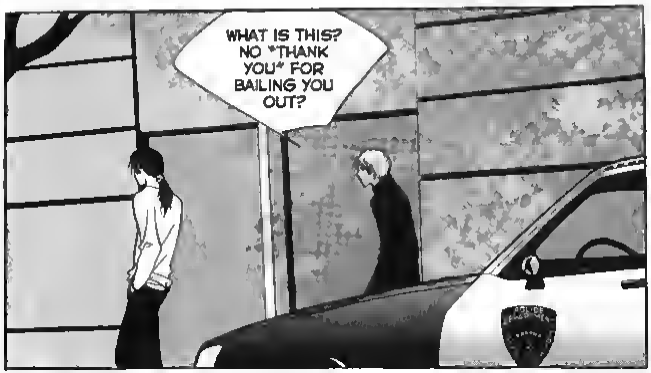
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY IT BACK.
BUT YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING FOR ME.
HAVE YOU EVER SHOT ANYONE?
NO...NOT YET...
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR SKILLS. BUT SHOOTING SOMEONE IS DIFFERENT FROM SHOOTING A TARGET AT A FIRING RANGE.
FIRST TIME IS ALWAYS THE HARDEST. EVEN I THREW UP THE FIRST TIME. SECOND OR THIRD TIME IS HARD TOO, BUT IT'S EASIER TO PULL THE TRIGGER. THEN AFTER THE FIFTH OR SIXTH TIME...
"YOU START TO LOOK AT THE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS OF YOUR VICTIM." I REMEMBER DIALOGUE LIKE THAT FROM TRUE ROMANCE.
I ALREADY LEARNED ALL THAT FROM THE MOVIES. I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING URGENT. SO JUST HAVE A GUN READY BEFORE I GET BACK.

WHAT? BAIL MONEY?
YEAH.
WHO IN THE WORLD...WOULD BAIL ME OUT?

SPIKE!

IT WAS A KID CALLED KAI LEE. HE TOLD ME HE WAS YOUR FRIEND?
KAI...?
AREN'T YOU GONNA LEAVE? DO YOU REALLY WANNA STAY HERE ANY LONGER?

KAI...
REMEMBER THIS.
YOU HAVE A DEBT TO PAY.


WHAT IS THIS? NO "THANK YOU" FOR BAILING YOU OUT?

I HAVE NO COURAGE TO FACE YOU. YOU CAN LAUGH AT ME ALL YOU WANT. I CAN'T EVEN STAND MYSELF. THE BAIL MONEY... RIGHT NOW IT'S HARD, BUT SOMEDAY I'LL PAY YOU BACK.

OF COURSE-- I'M GONNA FOLLOW YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO GET IT BACK. I SOLD MY LAST REMAINING INNOCENCE FOR THAT MONEY.

SOLD WHAT? ...WHAT...ON EARTH HAVE YOU DONE?

NOT RIGHT NOW... DIDN'T I TELL YOU SOME TIME AGO THAT I WAS GOING TO BE A GANGSTER? THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

KAI...YOU DIDN'T?!
SPIKE YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON I REALLY LIKE IN THIS WHOLE WORLD
I WANT TO SEE YOU BE HAPPY...BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT TO ANYONE. IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT FIGHT FOR IT.
I GOTTA RUN NOW...HAVE TO DO SOMETHING I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH.
KAI...

Character Introductions

I've finally finished Vol. One! Since I was in the development stage, my art was going through a lot of changes. I'm hoping to be able to move onto Vol. Two with an improved and steady art style.

A Korean and white mix
Hobbies: Collecting army uniforms
Specialty: Lying, sneaking
Wants to be: Gangster
Life motto: "Life is meaningless, cruel and foolish, yet glamorous."

Kai Lee (Kangil Lee) 17 years old
177 cm / 67 kg / Blood type AB

A Korean immigrant
Hobbies: Swimming, dancing
Specialty: Tae Kwon Do
Wants to be: Traveler
Life motto: "It could be enjoyable to live in a place where you don't know anyone."

Sunil Sohn 17 years old
172 cm / 52 kg / Blood type O

Second-generation Korean American
Hobbies: Making dolls
Specialty: Screaming
Wants to be: Too young to decide that yet, don't you think?
Life motto: "I'm too young to think about that stuff..."

Gelda (Heesun Lee) 14 years old
158 cm / 48kg / Blood type A

Korean Adoptee
Hobbies: Read anything you can read
Specialty: Doing makeup
Wants to be: Punk rock musician
Life motto: "Anything you learn from pain is touching."

J.J. (Judas Jesus) 14 years old
163 cm / 51 kg / Blood type AB

A Korean and black mix
Hobbies: Working out
Specialty: Rap
Wants to be: A dad
Life motto: "Don't ever let them see you sweat."

Spike Washington. 17 years old
186cm/71kg/ Blood type A

Exchange student from Korea
Hobbies: Hanging around
Specialty: Laughing at people
Wants to be: —
Life motto: "I don't have a motto."

Sangyul Choi 17 years old
165 cm / 58 kg / Blood type B

In the next volume of...

SOUL TO SEOUL

As Kai continues to pursue his dream of becoming the ultimate gangbanger, he soon commits a heinous crime to earn his stripes. Soon afterward, he goes into hiding and tries to disguise his identity so a rival gang cannot track him down and seek revenge. With his life hanging in the balance, the stakes have never been higher. Will Kai find that the gangsta life is all it's cracked up to be?! Meanwhile, Gelda is still extremely irritated by J.J.--but when one of her friends develops a crush on him, she feels really weird about it. Does this mean she actually has feelings? Find out in the next volume of Seoul to Seoul.

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SOUL TO SEOUL™

Kai and Spike are best friends who share a common background: they are both half-Korean. Searching for identity in a world filled with intolerance, they feel uncomfortable even in their own homes because of their mixed heritage. Then they meet Sunil, a Korean foreign-exchange student, who leads them on a journey that is part self-discovery and all heart and soul...

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